Presented to

Frances H. Galbraith

by her father

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GEORGE THE THIRD,

HIS COURT,

AND FAMILY.

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HIS MAJESTY

GEORGE III.

BORN MAY 24, 1738, O.S. — DIED JAN. 29. 1820.

GEORGE THE THIRD

HIS COURT

AND FAMILY.

"HIS LIFE A LESSON TO THE LAND HE SWAYED."

A NEW EDITION.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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PREFACE

To record the Important National Events, foreign and domestic, of the long and varied Reign of George the Third, must remain a task for the pen of History, when passion and prejudice shall be, in some measure, extinct, and when Truth shall alone he sought for and investigated, in the public and private documents of Britain, and of her potent rivals.

But the pen of Biography, independent of the impulse of general curiosity which calls it instantly into exercise, must seek and arrange its materials upon the spur of the moment, whilst minor and more minute events are floating on the stream of living recollection, ere they pass into the ocean of forgetfulness.

It is to Biography that History owes those accessories which not only unite, but often illustrate, the greater events which she finds, though accurately recorded, yet imperfectly connected with the individuals who have been the most powerful,

though not apparently the most active agents in their developement.

In this point of view, Truth must be the first object of the Biographer, and has been so throughout the preparation of the following Work, during a course of many years' close observation and sedulous research antecedent to the lamented event which has permitted its presentation to public notice.

To invest with chronological precision accuracy of statement, an annual division has been resorted to in connexion with that of Sections. Every possible source of information, verbal or written, has been consulted; and it has been preferred in several instances, rather to insert observations and reflections entire, than to incur the charge of plagiarism by a mere change of language. In fact, whoever undertakes a work of this nature, and wishes to preserve the spirit of the era which he describes, must feel rather as the Editor than the Author, whilst availing himself of that information which lies scattered before him in his varied research.

In the following pages, those national events in which our revered Sovereign was personally,

or rather individually, engaged, have been principally regarded; but political discussions have been generally avoided, except where particularly and personally called for—and even there, Impartiality and Candour, it is hoped, will be found to have guided the pen; though it must be acknowledgd there are points on which impartiality would almost cease to be a virtue—or at least where silence would have implied a dereliction of duty.

Finally—if in future times the question shall be asked "How did BRITAIN preserve her moral, as well as her political, empire, amidst the wreck of nations?" it is hoped the present work will be found to have contributed somewhat towards furnishing a reply, by its illustration of the Private Life and Domestic Virtues of

GEORGE THE THIRD.

Erratum.

In page 328, vol. I. for 24th, line 8, read 29th of September.

CONTENTS.

VOL. I.

SECTION I.

SECTION II.

SECTION III.

SECTION IV.

VOL. II.

SECTION V.

SECTION VI.

SECTION VII.

SECTION VIII.

PLATES.

VOL. I.

VOL. II.

GEORGE THE THIRD,

HIS COURT, AND FAMILY.

SECTION I.

Introductory Remarks — Anecdotes of Brunswick Family, and Accession — Advantages thence resulting — Line of Family Descent—Anecdotes of George I.—George II.— of Frederick, Prince of Wales, &c. &c. &c.—Demise, Anecdotes, and Character of Queen Caroline — Birth of Prince George—1738.

BRITAIN, once more in tears, has now to lament the most venerable and venerated Monarch that ever sat upon her throne, either in her former divided, or her more recent united, state. Scarce an eye now weeps for him, that did not first open to the blaze of day amidst the splendour of his reign—not a heart throbs with regret for his loss, that has not to attribute the gratification and security of its best affections, to the paternal care, and patriotic resolution, of that Monarch,

in his spirited and persevering opposition to the introduction of principles subversive of all domestic happiness and tranquillity. Through a life extended to the age of eighty-two, and a reign of sixty years, he gave a glorious example of public worth and of private virtue. His whole time, from the age of twenty-two, down to the lamented period when seclusion became imperative, was spent either in the severe and exemplary discharge of his public duties of every description, or in the bosom of his family amidst domestic sources of enjoyment. To this, it is added by the pen of one, not an inaccurate observer of the events "of his own time," that in his agricultural occupations, or when engaged in the diversions of the field, he was seen often by the few who, from their official situations or dignity, had access to his person; but he was rarely found in splendid assemblies, or at festive entertainments, where beauty, rank, and pleasure, might have familiarized him more with the world, and, equallizing him in some measure with his guests, have presented him to their view divested of the forms and reserve of royalty. Even when a young man, he never frequented masquerades, then so much in fashion; nor ever engaged in play; and, in fact, never manifested any wish to spend his evenings in such society as, on a cursory view, might have appeared best calculated to unbend his mind, either from the

fatigues of business, the forms of state, or the more annoying vexations of party. To him, indeed, ceremony seems to have been always unpleasant; so that all the common splendour of a court was totally laid aside, with the exception of a few hours' exhibition on the birth-days, or particular levees. Public amusements, the theatre excepted, had for him no charms. Temperance always presided at his table; and therefore he very seldom, either at home or abroad, sat down with his ministers or nobles; latterly, indeed, he even dined alone, though he always joined his family at their repast: but though he thus lived in private, he did not live, as has been said, in Asiatic seclusion; the simple, unguarded Lodge, at Windsor, was long his residence, and the Terrace his evening levee.

Previous to his unhappy malady, a reign of twenty-eight years, marked by the most engaging condescension, and by the easy familiarity of the gentleman, had rendered the royal character intimate to every order of his subjects; and although the earlier parts of his reign, in some respects, may have proved inauspicious to the empire, yet the events that rendered them so were never imputed either to want of ability, or of virtue, in the Sovereign himself.

If we examine his career, independent of foreign or of party politics, we may observe that fortitude,

equanimity, lenity, benignity, and all the virtues that adorn the humble walks of private life, may be traced in the family annals of George the Third, accompanying him through every period of his sovereignty. Let us recollect, that it is to his patriotism we are indebted for the independence of the Judges, and for much of that equal administration of justice which flows, in a pure untainted stream, through every part of our extended empire. Let us recollect, that whatever might be the charges that were brought against him on one occasion, of want of liberality, and of religious obstinacy, yet it is to him it may be imputed, that bigotry and superstition have fled before the spirit of toleration.

Of the more useful and scientific pursuits, let it be remembered, that even from the commencement of his youthful reign, geography has been enlarged, beyond all former boundaries, through the medium of his patronage. If, in the elegancies of art, or in the developement of science, he has not personally rivalled the house of Medici, we ought to bear in mind that such personal exertions were from him less necessary; as the moral feelings, the improved taste, the mental energies, and the accumulating capital of his subjects, always went hand in hand with the general patronage and attention which he paid to the arts and sciences; perhaps thus affording more real

stimulus to exertion, than if the surplus arising from his domestic economy had been expended upon the efforts of a few.

Kings are seldom personally loved by those who surround them. Their foibles are too often magnified into faults, and the necessary rejection of many favours asked from them, is too often a drawback upon that affection which they might otherwise inspire. From kings too much is always expected. Our lamented Monarch possessed an understanding which, if not of a brilliant, lively, or imposing description, was yet solid and sedate, and fitted him admirably for the extensive duties of his high rank. Unfortunately, to this useful, and even favourable turn of mind, his manners did great injustice. Bred up singly and solely, without an equal amongst his companions, and flattered by his attendants, the heir apparent to a throne has no opportunity of acquiring that manliness of deportment which other boys are forced to assume, in order to be the preservers of their own consequence at a public school, and in their subsequent intercourse with the world, where, however high their rank, they meet innumerable rivals, both amongst the nobility and gentry. It is not surprising, therefore, that a prince, who may be said to find his dignity *waiting* for him, should fail to acquire a proper confidence of manner, and that he should be in some measure destitute of orna-

mental and adventitious endowments. Hence we may easily account in our late Monarch, for the oscillations of his body upon state occasions, the occasional inelegance of his movements, the hurried articulation to which he was generally subject, and most particularly the style of his conversation, consisting principally of rapid questions, which seldom waited for an answer: in fact, the style in which a prince is educated, and the reserve to which he is accustomed, on the part of others, in conversation, oblige him not only to use that mode of address, on subjects where he wishes for information, but even to think in the same style, from habit, and to adopt it when he wishes to express sentiments already formed.

If these peculiarities ever led casual observers to doubt the soundness of his late Majesty's judgment, or the strength of his faculties, such was not the case with those who came in closer contact with him; to which many ministers, especially Mr. Fox, bore ample testimony.

With respect to the acquirements of education, we may briefly state that he was well acquainted with modern history, especially that of England, France, and Germany. Classical literature was perhaps less an object of attention to him; but in modern languages he was well versed, and spoke French, German, and Italian, with facility. In writing, his style was easy, and remarkable for

brevity and perspicuity, displaying good sense, firmness, principle, consistency, and self-possession. Of art and science he possessed a general knowledge, but he displayed a taste in mechanics of a very superior order. In music, he was almost an enthusiast; and his skill in painting and architecture prompted him to patronage much beyond what the world is in general acquainted with. If to these we add a relish for hunting, acquired towards middle life, together with his farming and agricultural pursuits, it is evident that the listlessness of royalty or high rank could never attack him, whilst his mind was in its natural state of quiescence and freedom from morbid irritability.

To his fondness for agriculture, indeed, much of our present prosperity may be attributed; for he brought it into fashion: and to his praiseworthy example we are in a great measure indebted for the exertions of our most celebrated agriculturists, and for the widely-diffused benefits both of their theories and practice.

No trait more strongly marks the reign of our deceased Monarch than the universal and enthusiastic loyalty which has always, upon great occasions, been felt, and often ardently manifested, by the people of the British empire towards their Sovereign. It is certainly true that the defalcation of the American colonies forms one

strong exception; and that at every period of his long reign there have been individuals found who could so far forget truth and decorum, as to point both the pen and the pencil against his person and character—nay, some few to offer him personal insult, and even to attempt his life. But notwithstanding these exceptions, the general position will not be denied; and it has been well observed, that as versatility of temper forms too large a part of the character of the nation, the monarch who permanently fixes their affections, certainly ought to have credit for the possession of many virtues.

"Of our revered Sovereign, even while living, we were, from the melancholy circumstances attending his seclusion, enabled to speak in terms of the loftiest panegyric, without being suspected of designing to win his personal regard, or to promote our individual interests: and we may now be permitted still more explicitly to say, that probably no nation ever owed more to the personal virtues of a monarch, than we are indebted to those of him who is the theme of this memoir. Very few sovereigns have more assiduously thrown the splendour of the throne around the institutions of religion. He was one of the few monarchs of his time who never missed family devotions. And the *influence* of this example, we may venture to add, has been such as, under the blessing of Di-

vine Providence, we had a right to anticipate. Perhaps no reign in the annals of our history has been marked by a more rapid progress in piety and morals. Benevolent and religious institutions have multiplied with incredible rapidity. As many Bibles and Prayer-books are now distributed in this kingdom in a single year, as were before circulated in ten times that period. Nor are our exertions confined to these realms. The national piety and benevolence have, as it were, spurned the national confines, and, overleaping seas and mountains, have made all nations participators in our spiritual and temporal blessings." During this period too, arts and sciences have prospered in proportion; and the civil and religious liberties of the people have been preserved and enlarged. The Brunswick family have always been firm supporters of the Christian religion, and the staunch friends of protestantism. Their reign has been signalized by a strict adherence to the principles of the constitution, and attempts at arbitrary power have never been witnessed. They must therefore be highly respected by all who wish well to the country, for the unparalleled blessings which, under their government, the Almighty has conferred on these realms: and it was justly observed, upon a former melancholy occasion, by a pious preacher, that "To the present Royal Family, we owe, under Providence, the

safety with which we worship and the facilities of extending the everlasting gospel; and that I am correct in ascribing much of these blessings to their mild auspices, will be felt at once if we only imagine what must have ensued had the Stuarts been in power, or France furnished us with a king. Who can be insensible to the salutary influence of his present Majesty's private character on public manners and morals? Who ever had to quote his authority for the neglect of public worship, or the violation of the sabbath? Who has been emboldened in extravagance by his example? None." —But the social virtues, the charities of life, the charms of domestic retirement, *the beauty of holiness,* have never wanted a royal plea in their behalf in the habits and decorum of our venerable Sovereign. The sober and regular had always the first authority in the empire to appeal to as their example whilst the King was *himself;* and even when he was, like a silent oracle, lonely and sad, he was still sacred, and his former maxims quoted with increasing delight: his "gray hairs were a crown of glory" which needed not a regal diadem to endear or dignify it.

Sad, indeed, would be our sorrow for his loss, had we to lament him as the last of his line; but happily we have now every prospect under Providence, that our highly-favoured and united kingdom shall never want a prince to sit on the

throne, to reign in righteousness, and be the protector of our liberties and rights, both civil and religious. Still, however, it is our duty to pray, not only that the sceptre may descend in peace, from generation to generation, to the next in succession, but that our sovereigns may continue, as those of the present Royal Family have always been, the enemies of arbitrary power and oppression, the warm friends of the Christian religion, and the firm supporters of protestantism. The kingdom of Great Britain has long been the chief pillar of the protestant religion;—may it ever remain its glory! Nor can we despair; we have yet Princes, who have come graciously forward as the decided patrons of every cause of religion and benevolence. We have a reigning Family, attached to the civil and religious liberties of the subject. We have surviving branches of this illustrious house, numerous enough to remove our apprehensions relative to the protestant succession. We have a government, mild in its administration, and regulated by the constitution. We have a constitution, the envy and admiration of the world. We have the Bible in our own tongue, and a church distinguished for its liberality and purity. We are at peace with the world, and among ourselves. These are the blessings remaining to us; let us not, therefore, in the depth of our affliction, ungratefully overlook or undervalue them.

It is a remarkable circumstance, and worthy of being generally known, that the Royal Family of England have possessed the throne for considerably more than a thousand years. Our late venerable Monarch was descended, in the female line, from Cerdic, founder of the kingdom of Wessex. Cerdic landed in England in the year 495, and having founded a kingdom, left it to his descendants, who, in succeeding generations, reduced all the other kingdoms of the Heptarchy under their own power, and became sole monarchs of England. There have, indeed, been periods in which several kings, not of this line, have in succession sat on the throne; but in the course of time, the crown has always reverted to the same dynasty again. It has not, however, always descended to the next in succession; but still has been continued in the same Family. A race of monarchs so prolonged, must be endeared to the hearts of Englishmen; and the circumstance, that the same Royal Family has been preserved more than thirteen hundred years, and generally possessed the throne, and that one of its descendants now fills it, ought to be contemplated as an evidence of a Divine Providence by all sects and parties in the nation, to whom we may exclaim, in the words of a pious and liberal dissenter, "Let us lift up our weeping eyes from the sepulchres of Brunswick, and survey the monuments

which it has left in Britain:—see the Act of Toleration smiling over the Act of Uniformity—the Bible Society on the ruins of the Star Chamber—the African Institution on the ruins of the Slave Trade—the British and Foreign School Society with Ignorance under her feet—and a host of Missions circling the world. These monuments are as indestructible as they are distinguished, and when the rising pillar of Waterloo and the Jubilee columns, like an Egyptian obelisk, have lost their inscription, these will remain

"Rocks amidst the flood of time."

The great principle of civil and religious liberty which these inculcate is purely that of the Reformation. It is the principle which called the present Family to the throne of these realms, and which gives to our kings the title of sovereigns of a free people—a title far more glorious than any emperor. The constitutional principles which seated them on the throne, ought to be had in everlasting remembrance. Hence our ancestors, suffering in the sacred cause of civil and religious liberty, hailed the accession of the race of Brunswick as an event of no ordinary magnitude. Indeed the demise of the last reigning member of the *Stuart dynasty* was the prevention of an act of tyranny meditated against the liberties of the country. By the death of Queen Anne, and

the introduction of the house of Brunswick, all protestant dissenters were rescued from an impending evil, whilst the whole nation was emancipated from the yoke of slavery.

This is a consideration which interests all classes of Christians in this united empire, even the catholics, who now enjoy a free toleration of their own religion, together with the advantages resulting from the freedom consequent upon a protestant establishment. Happy is it for us then that God in his providence defeated the designs of the enemies to the Hanover succession, and that at the death of Queen Anne in 1714, just at the time when they had *brought out the instrument for the work* of persecuting dissenters, the son of the Electress of Hanover, George I. was placed upon the British throne: "*because he was of a protestant house, and, by his principles, and the constitutional laws which he would swear to preserve, would discourage all persecution for conscience sake*:" and after the lapse of a century, though there may have always been a party in the country who have disliked the dissenters, and have wished the bulwark of their liberties, the Act of Toleration, to be razed and removed, it is due to this Royal House to say, that the oath of its Monarchs taken at their coronation, "I will preserve the Toleration Act inviolable," has never been violated. Hence all classes of dissenters have gained privileges which

their fathers, at the commencement of the Brunswick government, did not enjoy, and constitutional rights which they did not possess.

Each one of the English Monarchs of the royal House of Brunswick (and no one more fully than our late venerable and afflicted King) has thus fully imbibed the principle, and consistently acted upon it, which Burnet attributes to William III. "that conscience is God's province, and ought not to be imposed upon."

It is fortunate for this country that our earliest monarchs found it necessary to oppose the principles of the Salique law in France, and to maintain the right of female succession to the throne.

That the principle is an ancient British one, is evident from the historical facts respecting Boadicea; and although we had not any female monarchs under the Saxon governments, either before or after the wise union of the Heptarchy by Egbert, in the year 819, yet it is well known to have been a Saxon principle, insomuch that William, Duke of Normandy, founded his claim in preference to Harold, on his descent from Matilda of Brunswick, who was descended from Elfrida, wife of Baldwin II. Count of Flanders, and daughter of Alfred the Great, grandson of Egbert, the first Saxon monarch of the whole kingdom of England.

On the same principle William married his son Henry, afterwards Henry I. to Maud, daughter of Malcolm III. King of Scotland, by Margaret, sister of Edgar Atheling, the last of the Saxon line of princes, and the undoubted heiress of the British crown.

From Henry's daughter Maud, married first to Henry V. Emperor of Germany, and afterwards to Geoffrey Plantagenet, by whom she had Henry II. this latter monarch claimed a right to the throne in preference to Stephen, whose claim was also a female one; and it may be remarked that the English monarchs of the Norman line, not only founded their own claims upon the female right of inheritance, but even engrafted it on, or at least supported it in, the general system of military feudality.

Again, in the 15th century, Henry VII. founded his claim on his descent from his mother Margaret, Countess of Richmond, heiress of the Beauforts, and great grand-daughter of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, fourth son of Edward III.; yet even he thought his claim strengthened by his union with the heiress of the hostile House of York.

The claim of James I. was also a female one in right of his mother Mary, not only to the crown of England, but also to that of Scotland, where the same principle of descent prevailed, most fortu-

nately for the peace and welfare of both kingdoms.

On the abdication of James II. the crown was offered to Mary, daughter of James, and to her husband William Prince of Orange, son of Mary, eldest daughter of Charles I. both female claims; and on William's death, it fell by regular descent to Anne, heiress in right of her progenitors, in addition to the protestant laws of descent founded on the Revolution.

It is unnecessary to enter into the earlier history of the House of Brunswick, one of the oldest in Germany, and descended from the House of Este, in Italy, supposed in a right line from Caius Ætius, a noble Roman senator; it is sufficient to mark its early connexion with the throne of England by the marriage of Matilda, daughter of Henry II. to Henry the Lion, duke of Brunswick, from whom Ernest Augustus, first Elector of Hanover, father of George I. was lineally descended, and who, in 1658, married Sophia, grand-daughter of James I. also descended from Henry I. by his daughter Maud, and from the Saxon line, by the marriage of Margaret, sister and heiress of Edgar Atheling, with Malcolm Canmore, King of Scotland.

We shall, therefore, only briefly notice one or two of the generations prior to the regal succession, from the sixteenth century:

William, Duke of Brunswick Lunenburg, fourth son of Ernest, called the Confessor on account of his having introduced the Augsburg Confession into his dominions, had fifteen children, seven of whom were sons, and were rendered more remarkable in history by their amity, than they could well have been by an extended and splendid lineage. These princes, whose names were Ernest, Christian, Augustus, Frederick, Magnus, George, and John, being resolved, on the death of their father, in 1593, to keep up the dignity of their house, came to an agreement among themselves not to divide their paternal inheritance. Accordingly they determined that only one of the number should marry, and that the elder brother should have the sole regency over the Lunenburg estates, and be succeeded by the eldest survivor. They kept to this brotherly compact with great exactness; and this circumstance appeared so extraordinary, that when the Grand Signior Achmet the First was made acquainted with it, he expressed great surprise, and said, "It was worth a man's while to undertake a journey on purpose to be an eye-witness of such wonderful unanimity." The seven brothers, according to the treaty, drew lots who should marry, and the fortunate chance fell upon George, the sixth brother, who, in consequence, formed a union with Anne Eleanora, daughter of Lewis, Landgrave of Hesse Darmstadt, by whom he had

five children. Thus George secured the government to his family, but he died in 1642, without enjoying the regency himself.

His marriage produced four sons, the younger of whom, Ernest Augustus, born in 1629, became the sole heir in 1680, after distinguishing himself much, as bishop of Osnaburg, in favour of the protestant religion. He was the first Duke of Hanover, and was made an Elector of the empire, along with the imperial offices of standard-bearer, and arch-treasurer. In 1658 he married the Princess Sophia of Bohemia, grand-daughter of James I. of England; by which union the whole royal line of British blood became united with the Brunswick pedigree; including the ancient dynasty of Cadwallader, the Saxon, the Norman, the Plantagenet, the Tudor, and the Stuart; embracing also the whole Scottish line from Fergus, and the royal line of Ireland from Cathal O'Connor Crowdearg, or Cathal with the red hand, whose heiress married Hubert de Burgo, Earl of Ulster, leaving a daughter and heiress, who became the wife of Lionel, Duke of Clarence, third son of Edward III. and a direct ancestor in line. George Lewis (afterwards George I. of England) was eldest son of the elector Ernest, and was married in 1682 to Sophia Dorothy, heiress of his oldest uncle, the Duke of Zell, who was mother of George II.; but in her latter years she suffered

close confinement, by order of her husband, on account of circumstances that have never been fully explained.

Such was the state of the electoral family at the period of the Revolution, when their eventual succession to the throne of these realms was actually in contemplation; for Bishop Burnet expressly says, "The Duke of Hanover was at that time in some engagements with the court of France, but since he had married the Princess Sophia of the Palatine house, I ventured to send a message to her by one of their court, who was then at the Hague: he was a French refugee, named M. Boncour. It was to acquaint her with our design with relation to England, and to let her know, that, if we succeed, certainly a perpetual exclusion of all papists from the succession to the crown would be enacted; and since she was the next protestant heir after the two princesses and the Prince of Orange, of whom at that time there was no issue alive, I was very confident that if the Duke of Hanover could be disengaged from the interests of France, so that he came into our interests, the succession to the crown would be lodged in her person, and in her posterity: though on the other hand, if he continued as he stood then engaged with France, I could not answer for this. The gentleman carried the message, and delivered it. The duchess entertained it with much warmth,

and brought him to the duke to repeat it to him; but at that time this made no great impression on him, for he looked on it as a remote and a doubtful project: yet when he saw our success in England, he had other thoughts of it. Some days after this Frenchman was gone, I told the prince what I had done; he approved of it heartily, but was particularly glad that I had done it as of myself, without communicating it to him, or any way engaging him in it; for he said, if it should happen to be known that the proposition was made by him, it might do us hurt in England—as if he had already reckoned himself so far master, as to be forming projects concerning the succession to the crown."

This was certainly an admirable foresight; for it was still possible that William and Mary might have issue; besides the Princess Anne, afterwards queen, was then married, and very prolific. Of the latter royal personage, some observations of an amiable authoress, in reference to the Hanover succession, deserve a place here:—

"It would almost seem that the issue of this princess was deemed by providence too central a branch of the Stuart family, to be entrusted with the newly-renovated constitution. A more distant connexion had already been specially trained for this most important trust, though with little apparent probability of being called to exercise it, the Princess Anne having been no less than seven-

teen times pregnant. The death of the Duke of Gloucester, *the last of her family*, at length turned the eyes of the English public toward the Princess Sophia; and from henceforth she and her issue were recognized as presumptive heirs to the crown. Many of the events which occurred during the last years of Queen Anne's reign, served not a little to enhance to all who were cordially attached to the English constitution, the providential blessing of so suitable a succession.

"A more remarkable event is scarcely to be found in the annals of the world. Nothing could be more essential to the interests of British liberty, than that they, who were concerned for its maintenance, should be possessed of the promptest and most unexceptionable means of filling the vacant throne. No prince was fitted to their purpose, who was not zealously attached to the protestant religion; and it was desirable that he should, at the same time, possess such a title, on ground of consanguinity, as that the principle of hereditary monarchy might be as little departed from as the exigencies of the case would admit. For the securing of both these radical objects, what an adequate provision was made in the Princess Sophia and her illustrious offspring! The connexion thus near, was made interesting by every circumstance which could engage the hearts of English protestants. The Princess Sophia was

the only remaining child of that only remaining daughter of James I., who, being married to one of the most zealous protestant princes of the empire, became his partner in a series of personal and domestic distresses, in which his committing himself, on the cause of the protestants of Bohemia, involved him and his family for near half a century. In her, all the rights of her mother, as well as of her father, were vested; and while by the electoral dignity (of which her father had been deprived,) being restored to her husband, the Duke of Hanover, she seemed, in part, compensated for the afflictions of her earlier life,—her personal character, in which distinguished wit and talents were united with wisdom and piety, both these latter probably taught her in the school of adversity, procured for her the admiration of all who knew her, as well as the veneration of those whose religious sentiments were congenial with her own."

It was in 1701, that the act passed, by which it was settled, that after the death of King William and the Princess Anne, without heirs, the succession to the crown of these kingdoms should devolve upon the Princess Sophia, Duchess Dowager of Hanover, and the heirs of her body, being protestants. Upon this the Earl of Macclesfield was despatched by the King, in the character of ambassador extraordinary, to Hanover. At his arrival

there, he had a house and all kinds of provisions freely and liberally appointed for himself and his retinue. But, says an historian of those times, among the great company there, some were so reprobate, that the Archbishop of Canterbury intreated the Princess Sophia to dismiss them from her court, lest their presence and society might prove prejudicial to her dignity. Others were hangers-on there, in expectation of employments; who, afterwards, when factions arose at the court of Hanover, through their imprudence forfeited the favour both of the elector and of their own party. For the elector himself abhorred all faction and emulation; and his temperance, and the quiet life he had hitherto led, filled many people with hopes of a modest mind, and a moderate man. Soon after, in 1705, the Princess Sophia sent the following letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

"My Lord,

"I received your grace's letter: *** You have no reason to make any excuse that you have not writ to me before: for I do not judge of people's friendship for me, by the good words they give me, but I depend upon your integrity, and what you tell me in general of the honest men of England.

"I desire no further assurance of their good will and affection to me, unless they think it

necessary for the good of the protestant religion, the public liberties of Europe, and the people of England.

"I thank God, I am in good health, and live in quiet and with content here; therefore I have no reason to desire to change my way of living, on the account of any personal satisfaction that I can propose to myself.

"However I am ready and willing to comply with whatever can be desired of me, by my friends, in case that the parliament think that it is for the good of the kingdom, to invite me into England.

"But I suppose they will do this in such a manner as will make my coming agreeable to the Queen, whom I shall ever honour, and endeavour to deserve her favours; of which she hath given me many public demonstrations, by what she hath done for me in England and Scotland, which you may judge of more particularly; and I most remember that she ordered me to be prayed for in the churches.

"I doubt not her Majesty is as much inclined at present to establish the safety of the three kingdoms upon such a foot that they may be exposed to the least hazard that is possible, and that she will begin with England.

"Mr. How has acquainted me with her Majesty's good inclinations for my family; which makes me

think that, perhaps, her Majesty sees this is a proper time for her to express herself in our favour. But whether I am right in that point or not, my friends in England can best judge.

"It is but reasonable that I should submit myself to their opinions and advice; and I depend most upon what your Grace shall advise, which will ever have the greatest weight with me.

"Therefore I write the more plainly to you, and tell you my thoughts, that you may communicate them to *all* you think fit. For they will then see that I have great zeal for the good of England, and a most sincere respect for the Queen.

"This is the best proof that I can give, at present, of my esteem for your Grace; but I shall be glad of further opportunities to assure you I am, and ever shall be, most sincerely,

"My Lord,

"Votre tres affectionnée,

"à vous servir,

"SOPHIE ELECTRICE."

"Hannover, Nov. 3d, 1705."

This letter is the best eulogium on her virtues.

Such was the mother of George the First! She lived, enjoying her bright faculties to a very advanced age, to see a throne prepared for her son, far more glorious than that from which her father had been driven; or, which to her excellent mind

was still more gratifying, she saw herself preserved, after the extinction of all the other branches of her paternal house, to furnish, in the most honourable instance possible, an invaluable stay and prop for that cause, on account of which her parents and their children seemed, for a time, to have "suffered the loss of all things."

Indeed she only failed, herself, of sitting on the throne of England, by dying about seven weeks before Queen Anne, who expired on the 1st of August, 1714; when George, Elector of Hanover, was proclaimed King of England.

It is a curious fact, connected with the Brunswick accession, that at the time of the Gunpowder Plot, it was intended to extirpate the whole royal family, except the Princess Elizabeth, daughter of James I. and afterwards Electress Palatine and Queen of Bohemia, who was to have been educated as a catholic for the maintenance of that religion. Yet from the issue of that very lady was the Brunswick family selected as the bulwark of the Christian religion; to the exclusion of the issue of her brother, finally represented by the Pretender, and by the female line in the various families of France, Spain, and Sardinia. It has also been asserted that the suspicions of an intended invasion by the Pretender, previous to the death of Queen Anne, were so general at that time, and were so much confirmed

by the papers and letters of information transmitted by order of the Electoral Family of Hanover, that the Whigs were determined to be beforehand with the Tories in this business; and, if the Queen had not died so suddenly, the former would have taken up arms in defence of their religion and liberties.

General Stanhope (the ancestor of the present Earl Stanhope) was to have commanded the army, and Lord Cadogan to have seized the Tower. All the officers on half-pay, as a writer of that period maintains, had signed the association. The place of rendezvous was appointed behind Montague-house. The officers kept their arms in readiness in their bed-chambers, and were prepared to obey the summons at a minute's warning. The Queen, however, dying before this plot was ripe enough for execution, and the unanimous resolution of the council (principally effected by the exertions of the Dukes of Argyle and Somerset) taking cautious measures for the better security of the Hanover succession, every thing succeeded so much to the satisfaction of the Whigs, as to render all ideas of insurrection unnecessary.

In the Memoirs of Lord Chesterfield by Dr. Maty, we are told that Lord Bolingbroke never heard of this design till his return to England in 1722; and he further adds, "that Lord Boling-

broke assured Lord Chesterfield, that he never had any fixed scheme in relation to the Pretender, and that he had always avoided speaking of him to the Queen, who, he said, did not like to hear any thing of a successor. He likewise added, *that the Pretender never was in England during the Tory administration.*"

What credit may be due to Lord Bolingbroke's assertion on this head, may be gathered from the *veracity* of the last paragraph, as it is well known the Pretender was in this country some months before the Queen's death, and had apartments at Somerset-house *incog.* and that he left London only for the purpose of making preparation for a descent on this kingdom. But perhaps Lord Bolingbroke might think, as a statesman, that it was too near the scene to tell the fact upon this occasion, which would then too much involve private interests and connexions.

One of the most active in favour of the Hanoverian succession was the great Lord Halifax, who displayed much patriotism in a private conversation with his secretary the amiable Addison, previous to their setting out to meet the new Monarch, on his expected landing at Greenwich. Halifax told Addison that he expected to have the white staff, and that he had for some time past been considering what he should do in that case, to which he had finally made up his mind;

adding, that he had been in his time a good deal in hot water, and as deeply engaged in party as most men, confessing that, to say the truth, he had done many things in the spirit of party which, on serious reflection, he was thoroughly ashamed of. He assured Addison, however, that he had now resolved, by the help of God, to make King George, not the head of a party, but the king of a glorious nation—that, to be sure, a great many people must be removed from their posts, that the Tories themselves could not expect it to be otherwise, and it would be the highest ingratitude not to reward several gentlemen who had borne the heat of the day, and run all hazards for the house of Hanover; yet, at the same time, if the King would take his advice, there should be no cruelties, no barbarities committed, nor should every worthless fellow that called himself a Whig, got drunk, and bawled at an election, displace a man of ten times his own merit, only because that man was a reputed Tory!

Halifax further said that he knew the Tory party well; and though he was aware that some of them did mean to elevate the Pretender, yet there were others amongst them, as worthy men as ever lived. He thought it time the nation should be united, when we should indeed be a formidable people; and he hoped the work was reserved by providence for the new dynasty. In

the expectation of receiving the white staff, he added, that it was his design to live in such a manner as would be no disgrace to his master, and that he would, if possible, put an end to the scandalous practice of buying places, being resolved to recommend none that were not competent to their situations. But Halifax was disappointed. It was said that the new monarch made no great haste; for, as if he had thought all things were governed by fate or fortune, he staid a long time to settle his own affairs at home. After this he declared who should accompany him in his journey; and having obtained the emperor's leave to depart, set out at last for England. When he arrived at the Hague, he received the congratulations of the States, whom he assured of his friendship, and his fixed purpose to observe ancient alliances with the republic. He then went on ship-board, with the Prince of Wales; and a south wind carried him to England, where he landed at Greenwich. A vast train of nobility, of all denominations, received him on shore, and attended his Majesty to the royal palace.

The coronation which took place in Westminster Abbey, October 14, 1714, was attended by a prodigious crowd of joyful spectators; and the King observed to Lady Cowper, in whose conversation he took great pleasure, that the sight and the place forcibly brought to his thoughts the day of

judgment. "Well it might," replied her ladyship, "for it was truly the resurrection of England, and of all faithful subjects."

It is not our intention to give even a sketch of this reign; but a few anecdotes, gleaned from authentic sources, cannot fail to be interesting and illustrative

At the first masquerade the King attended, there happened an incident that did great honour to his good-nature. A lady masked, whose name was not known, followed his majesty as if she had taken him for a stranger, and invited him to drink a glass of wine at one of the beaufets, with which he readily complied; and the lady filling a bumper, said, "Here, mask, the Pretender's health." Then filling another glass, she presented it to the King, who received it with a smile, and replied, "I drink, with all my heart, to the health of all unfortunate princes."

His Majesty also shewed equal good-nature on another occasion; for, being on a journey, the coach broke down, and he was obliged to stop for some time at the house of a country gentleman, who was zealously attached to the exiled family. The King was shewn into the best room, where, in a conspicuous situation, appeared the portrait of the Pretender. The owner of the mansion was in great confusion when he perceived the attention of his royal guest fixed upon the picture; but the

latter relieved him from his embarrassment by saying, "Upon my word it is a striking likeness, and very much resembles the family."

There was a gentleman who lived in the city in the beginning of the reign of this Monarch, and was so shrewdly suspected of Jacobitism, that he was taken up two or three times before the Council, but yet defended himself so dextrously that they could fasten nothing on him. On the breaking out of the rebellion in 1715, this person, who mixed some humour with his politics, wrote to the Secretary of State, that, as he took it for granted that at a time like the present he should be taken up, as usual, for a Jacobite, he had only one favour to beg, that if the administration meant any such thing, they would do it in the course of the next week; for the week after he was going down to Devonshire upon his own business, which, without this explanation, no doubt, would be construed as transacting the business of the Pretender.

Lord Townshend, who was Secretary of State at that time, in one of his convivial moments with the King, shewed him this letter, and asked him what his Majesty would direct to be done with such a fellow? "Poh! poh!" says the King, "there can be little harm in a man who writes so pleasantly."

Nothing seems to have hurt this Monarch more than the frequent oppositions he met with on account of *subsidies*. Bred up in principles different from those of the country which he was called to govern, he could not avoid complaining to his most intimate friends, "that he was come over to England to be a *begging king*." He added, "he thought his fate very hard to be continually opposed in his application for supplies, which he only asked that he might employ them for the advantage of the nation."

It must be acknowledged, however, that it was solely his unacquaintance with the laws of England which could make him feel so established an article in its government, that of not granting money but by the consent of parliament, as any hardship; but that it was his principle only to employ that money for the good of the nation is evident, as he was not fond of appearing in the full splendour of majesty, was remarkably averse to any act of oppression, and cultivated the happiness and esteem of his subjects throughout the whole course of his reign.

That the King's own intentions were just and patriotic is certain; for in an answer to a petition of the City of London in November 1718, his Majesty said, with great earnestness, "I shall be glad, not only for your sakes, but my own, if any defects which may touch the rights of my good

subjects are discovered in my time, since that will furnish me with the means of giving you and all my people an indisputable proof of my tenderness of their privileges!"

An extraordinary fact is said to have taken place in the year 1725, in proposals for marriage between the French king, Louis XV. and the eldest daughter of the Prince of Wales, afterwards George II. This proposal was made by the Duke of Bourbon, the Regent of France, he having recently broken off the match between Louis and his cousin, a princess of Spain. But the necessity of her abjuring the protestant faith, was one very powerful and indeed paramount objection to the acceptance of this offer on the part of the Princess Anne, afterwards Princess of Orange. Besides, George I., however he might have been flattered by the idea of his own descendants sitting on the throne of France, was perfectly aware that the measure itself, even though apparently possessing many political advantages, would have been not only disgusting, but also irritating, to all the friends of the Hanoverian succession; and it was declined accordingly.

The King's fondness for visiting his German dominions was not always approved of; and amongst the satirists on these occasions was Samuel Wesley, brother of the famous John, who wrote a little poem called "The Regency,"

laughing at the persons entrusted with the government during the Monarch's absence. Part of this poem is preserved in Nichols's Literary Anecdotes, beginning

"As soon as the wind it came fairly about,
That kept the king in, and his enemies out,
He determin'd no longer confinement to bear,
And thus to the duchess* his mind did declare.

"Quoth he, my dear *Kenny*, I've been tir'd a long while,
With living obscure in this poor little Isle;
And now Spain and Pretender have no more mines to spring,
I'm resolv'd to go home and live like a king."

The Duchess approves of this, describes and laughs at all the proposed regency, and concludes with,—

"On the whole, I'll be hang'd if all over the realm,
There are thirteen such fools to be put to the helm;
So for this time be easy, nor have jealous thought,
They han't sense to sell you, nor are worth being bought."

"'Tis for that (quoth the king, in very bad French,)
I chose them for my regents, and you for my wench;
And neither, I'm sure, will my trust e'er betray,
For the devil won't take you if I turn you away."

These various effusions of wit were said to have afforded the King much amusement; and he shewed upon several occasions, that he not only

* Duchess of Kendal.

could enjoy English humour, but even laugh at it when sometimes employed against himself.

When Dr. Younger was abroad upon his travels, he passed some time at the court of Hanover, where he was well received and esteemed by the Princess Sophia and her family before ever they came into England. When George I. succeeded to the throne, Dr. Younger was dean of Salisbury, residentiary of St. Paul's, and deputy clerk of the closet, in which station he had served under Queen Anne, and was continued under his successor. The King was very glad to renew his acquaintance with him, and in the closet, as he stood waiting behind his chair, turned often and talked with him, and the more, as Dr. Younger did what few could do, converse with the King in high Dutch. The King used to call him his Little Dean, and was so condescending and gracious to him, that he was looked upon, in some measure, as a favourite, and likely to rise to higher preferment. This was by no means agreeable to the ministers; for Dr. Younger was reputed to be what they called a Tory; and a letter of office was sent to dismiss him, the King having no further occasion for his service. It was not long before the King missed him, and asked what was become of his little Dean, that now he never saw him. It was answered that he was dead. "Dead!" said the King, "I'm sorry for it; for I meant to have

done something for him." This the ministers understood well enough, and therefore had removed him out of the way. Such an imposition, one would think, could hardly have been put upon any prince. It was a bold stroke, even when the King was a stranger to our people, and a stranger to our language; but even then it did not escape detection: for some time after, the King went a progress into the west of England, and among other places was at Salisbury, and in the cathedral there seeing the dean, he called him eagerly up to him, and said, "My little Dean, I am glad to see you alive; they told me you were dead; but where have you been all this while, and what has prevented my seeing you as usual?" He mentioned the letter of dismission which he had received, and said he thought it would ill become him after that to give his Majesty any farther trouble. "Oh!" said the King warmly, "I perceive how this matter is; but," with an oath, "you shall be the first bishop that I will make." It happened, however, that Dr. Younger being advanced in years, died before any bishop; so that he never obtained the good effect of the King's gracious intentions.

Though the Augustan age of literature, yet the arts were but in their infancy in England at the accession of the House of Brunswick; and it was not to be expected that a patron for them could

be found in a Monarch educated at a little northern German court. Nevertheless, it is but justice to George I. to say that he displayed a love of learning and science beyond what could have been hoped for. On his accession he took particular notice of Vertue, who engraved an admirable likeness of him from a portrait by Kneller, of which many thousands were sold. The engraving was shewn at court, where it was highly patronized, especial orders being given for similar portraits of all the branches of the Royal Family then in England. The Laureatship was vacant at the accession, which his Majesty graciously bestowed upon Nicholas Rowe, who also received grants of other lucrative places. He encouraged Dr. Desaguliers also, who had then made some advance in rendering philosophy popular, under the patronage of the munificent Duke of Chandos. In 1717 Desaguliers went through a course of lectures before the King at Hampton Court, with which his Majesty was so well pleased, that he resolved to reward him with the very valuable living of Much-Munden in Hertfordshire; but in this act of generosity he was thwarted by ministerial influence, which gave to politics what was due to science. The jarring of the ministerial with the royal influence is happily illustrated by the following anecdote respecting Dr. Lockyer, who in the former part of his life was chaplain to the

factory at Hamburgh, whence he went every year to visit the court of Hanover; whereby he became very well known to the King, who knew how to temper the cares of royalty with the pleasures of private life, and commonly invited six or eight of his friends to pass the evening with him. His Majesty seeing Dr. Lockyer one day at court, spoke to the Duchess of Ancaster, who was almost always of the party, that she should ask Dr. Lockyer to come that evening. When the company met in the evening, Dr. Lockyer was not there; and the King asked the Duchess if she had spoken to him as he desired. "Yes," she said, "but the doctor presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and hopes your Majesty will have the goodness to excuse him at present; for he is soliciting some preferment from your ministers, and he fears it might be some obstacle to him if it should be known that he had the honour of keeping such good company." The King laughed very heartily, and said he believed he was in the right. Not many weeks afterwards Dr. Lockyer kissed the King's hand for the deanery of Peterborough; and as he was raising himself from kneeling, the King inclined forwards, and with great good humour whispered in his ear, "Well, now doctor you will not be afraid to come in an evening: I would have you come this evening."

Indeed this Monarch seems to have encouraged even the witty effusions of those around him; an anecdote of which has been preserved:—

Dr. Savage, who died in 1747, travelled in his younger days with the Earl of Salisbury, to whom he was indebted for a considerable living in Hertfordshire. One day at the levee, the King asked him how long he had resided at Rome with Lord Salisbury. Upon his answering him how long, "Why," said the King, "you staid there long enough; how is it that you did not convert the pope?"—"Because, sir," replied the doctor, "I had nothing better to offer him."

It may be recorded here, that the first instance of newspapers giving prints, was in 1723, when portraits of "The glorious royal guard of the protestant religion, King George I. George Prince of Wales, and Prince Frederic," were presented to the public in the first number of the *Protestant Intelligencer*.

A short time before his demise, George I. founded the Royal Institution for the study of History at Cambridge. He also purchased for the use of that University, at a price of six thousand guineas, the extremely curious library of Dr. Moore, Bishop of Ely, consisting of thirty thousand volumes, and which had been much enriched with literary curiosities by John Bagford, the most skilful antiquary of that day.

He had three maxims which he professed to make the rule of his life:—never to forsake a friend—to endeavour to do justice to every person—and not to fear any one.

His frugality and economy, when only Elector, were so remarkable, that Toland declared, in a pamphlet published in 1705, "I need give no more particular proof of his frugality in laying out the public money, than that all the expenses of his court (as to eating, drinking, fire and candles, and the like,) are duly paid every Saturday night. The officers of his army receive their pay every month; and all the civil list are cleared every half year."

A German nobleman was one day congratulating this monarch on his being sovereign of Great Britain and Hanover: "Rather," said the King, "congratulate me on having such a subject in one as NEWTON; and such a subject in the other as LEIBNITZ!"

George II., when he came to the crown in 1727, was a great favourite with the people of England, notwithstanding his foreign birth, and the stiffness of manner which he had acquired by a constant residence at the electoral capital, until a few years previous to his succeeding to the throne. Some people, indeed, endeavoured to excite calumny against him, by an accusation of having burnt his father's will, an account of which may be

seen in Walpole's Reminiscences, where it is stated that the Archbishop of Canterbury produced the will at the council-table, when the King took it up, and walked out of the room without speaking, not an individual present venturing to require the registering of that document.

But Mr. Nichols sets the matter at rest, in his interesting "Recollections," as he shews that by the common law of England, a King of England cannot dispose of property by will, he only holding that property in his corporate capacity; all his personal property, *de facto*, devolving to his successor.

He had early distinguished himself in the field, having served as a volunteer in the army commanded by the immortal Marlborough; and at the battle of Oudenarde, (fought July 11, 1708,) his Highness, putting himself at the head of a squadron of Hanoverian dragoons, charged the enemy sword in hand with the greatest intrepidity. His horse was killed under him, and colonel Luschky, who commanded the squadron, was slain by his side.

On this occasion Lord Halifax wrote to the Princess Sophia a congratulatory letter, in which he says, "Lord Stair, who brought the news, is very full of the praises of the electoral Prince, and the bravery he shewed at the head of the Elector's troops. It is with the utmost joy and satisfaction

that we talk of this here, and make a comparison between the behaviour of his Highness and the Prince of France and the Pretender, who, as we hear, never came into danger, but were spectators of their own disgrace at a distance."

Towards the end of Queen Anne's reign, the friends of the Brunswick family were desirous that the Prince should be invited over publicly to the English court: while it is said that Bolingbroke and his party were insidiously labouring for the adoption of the son of James II. On this, the writer before quoted says, "that the Queen, equally afraid of the arrival of the Pretender, and that of the Prince of Hanover, in order to prevent this, and all similar attempts, sent the Earl of Clarendon ambassador to Hanover, to persuade the Elector not to permit his son to come over. The Elector thought fit to obey the Queen's pleasure, though greatly against the will of his mother, the Princess Sophia, which that princess, who was a high-spirited woman, laid so heavily to heart, that she fell sick and died in a few days after."

That the Princess Sophia died of chagrin on such a subject is not very probable; but it was perhaps in some degree fortunate for the quiet settling of the Hanover dynasty that the Prince did not proceed to London, as faction was at that period so violent, that there were many individuals who would have exerted themselves to

produce a personal breach between the Queen and her eventual successor, which might have led to very unpleasant consequences as opposition then stood. That family differences would have been hailed as a triumph for party is evident, from the fact that, soon after the Hanover accession, the Whigs divided themselves into two sections, under different leaders, who were Sunderland, Stanhope, and Cadogan, on the one side, and Townshend, Walpole, Devonshire, with the chancellor, on the other. The former were victorious, and the disappointed party, out of resentment, paid their court at Leicester-house, with a view to some future advantage over their adversaries. Not long afterwards the active mind of Walpole conceived a scheme for the triumph of his political friends, and the mortification of their opponents; but when he communicated the particulars to his most intimate associates, he objected to the proposal of laying the design before the Prince, saying at the same time, in his coarse manner, that "the fat b—, his wife," meaning the Princess Caroline, "would betray the secret, and spoil the project." Some how or other the language of Walpole was made known to her royal highness, who very naturally looked upon him with disgust; and as she had a complete influence over her husband, it was generally believed that her dislike to the person who had treated her so rudely, would pro-

duce a total change in the administration when he came to the throne. This, indeed, would have been the case, had not Sir Robert availed himself of the opportunity of letting the new Queen know privately, that if he was kept in his post, he would secure to her a settlement of 100,000*l.* a-year, in the event of the King's demise, though Sir Spencer Compton had openly proposed no more than 60,000*l.* This decided the matter at once; for the Queen sent back word, "Tell Sir Robert that the fat b— has forgiven him;" and the ministry remained without any alteration.*

* In a periodical work of extensive circulation, (New Monthly Magazine for April 1820,) we have seen another version of this anecdote. "The wisdom of Walpole's *first* administration was attested by an approving king and a contented people: the former was satisfied with the supplies; the latter could not complain of the pressure of taxation. The power of that pacific minister appeared to rest on the most secure foundation. But Walpole had yet to learn that in the respective governments of modern Europe, *the sex* forms a third estate, which if dissatisfied, in vain will the minister have conciliated the other two. The ruling passion of Queen Caroline was ambition. She guarded her influence with jealous vigilance; she considered no measure too vigorous to vindicate it from dispute, and no sacrifice too great to secure it from danger. A *woman,* a queen of such a character would seldom neglect an occasion of exercising her authority. Walpole's spleen was frequently provoked, by what he considered her untimely interference or impolitic councils. On one occasion, when he had delivered his opinion to the privy council respecting a public question, and stated the reasons which induced him to adopt it, a brief

Whilst Prince of Wales, he had attracted public attention, by the encouragement which he gave to many measures really patriotic; and in none more usefully than in the encouragement, indeed we may say the introduction, of inoculation for the small pox; the idea of which the Princess is thought first to have derived from the information of lady Mary Wortley Montague, on her return from the Turkish embassy. This was as early as 1721, in which year the Prince directed Dr. Mead to assist at the experimental inoculation of some condemned criminals, which succeeded; and im-

reply was made by one of the members, "that those councils could not be followed—they would displease the Queen, who recommended other measures." The minister expressed his impatience of contradiction, with a coarse allusion to her Majesty's *embonpoint:* "That fat —— —— is constantly intermeddling with public business. Why does she not attend to her proper duties, and take care of her family?" It is now matter of little moment what opinion was adopted. Walpole speedily forgot the dispute and its circumstances. Indeed, to *his* mind it could present no singular recollections: that style of language had become quite familiar by habit. His consternation in a few days can with difficulty be conceived, when he was officially informed of his dismissal from office, and from the privy council. The *deep* politicians of the day attributed his fall to rival intrigue, supported by aristocratic influence. Walpole himself could ascribe it to no other cause. After the lapse of a few years, the alarm created by the King's illness forced upon the attention of Parliament, among other measures, that of assigning a suitable provision to his surviving consort. The sum specified by ministers was considered by the Queen

mediately afterwards he caused two of his own daughters to undergo the apparently hazardous operation, thus setting a praiseworthy example to the people whom he was soon to govern. The princesses had the disorder most favourably; and a result so fortunate soon spread the practice throughout the kingdom, but not without great exertions on the part of its friends, in all of which the Prince and Princess warmly participated, particularly when Mr. Neale, an eminent divine of the Independent persuasion in London, published a book entitled, "A Narrative of the method and success of Inoculating the Small Pox in New England, by Mr. Benjamin Coleman; with a Reply to the Objections made against it from scruples of conscience, in a Letter from a minister at Boston: to which is now prefixed an historical

inadequate to the proper maintenance of her state and dignity. The minister firmly refused an augmentation. At this favourable contingency, Walpole sent, with his respectful homages, an assurance to her Majesty, that if he were restored to office, he would carry through both Houses a vote to the amount she had specified. The Queen's answer was emphatically perspicuous. "Give him my compliments, and tell him that, on the condition he proposes, the fat —— —— forgives, and will reinstate him." Sir Robert Walpole for the first time, beheld the rock on which all his honours had been wrecked. The wisdom of the British monarch, like that of his majesty of ancient Rome, was traced to the furtive wooings of an Egeria, and the minister resolved to be more discreet in the application of coarse invective."

Introduction." On the appearance of this book, her royal highness Caroline Princess of Wales sent to Mr. Neale, to desire him to wait upon her, that she might receive from him further satisfaction concerning the practice of inoculation. He was accordingly introduced by a physician of the royal family, and was received by the Princess in her closet, where he found her reading Fox's Martyrology. Her royal highness did him the honour of entering into a free conversation with him for near an hour, on the subject of inoculation, and afterwards on other points, particularly the state of the dissenting interest in England, and that of religion in the colonies. After some time the Prince of Wales came into the room, and condescended to take part in the conversation for about a quarter of an hour.

The manners of the court and of the people of high fashion, at the accession of George II. are well exemplified by an anecdote of Gay, the author of the Beggar's Opera, whose comic opera of "Polly" gave such extraordinary offence to Queen Caroline, that the Duke and Duchess of Queensberry became voluntary exiles from the court in consequence of their friendship for the author.—There is a remarkable account of this affair in a letter from Gay to Dean Swift, dated March 18, 1728-9. The original is in the British Museum.

"You must undoubtedly have heard that the Duchess took up my defence with the King and Queen in the cause of my play: and that she hath been forbid the court for interesting herself to increase my fortune, by the publication of it without being acted. The Duke too hath given up his employments, which he would have done if the Duchess had not met with this treatment, upon account of ill-usage from the ministers: but this hastened him in what he had determined.

"The Duchess of Queensberry's answer to the King and Queen, upon her being forbid the court, which was delivered by the vice-chamberlain in writing, upon his scrupling to carry it by word of mouth:

'The Duchess of Queensberry is surprised and well pleased that the King has given her so agreeable a command, as forbidding her the court, where she never came for diversion, but to bestow a very great civility upon the King and Queen. She hopes, that by so unprecedented an order as this, the King will see as few as she wishes at his court, particularly such as dare think or speak truth. I dare not do otherwise, nor ought not: nor could I have imagined, but that it would have been the highest compliment I could possibly pay the King and Queen, to support truth and innocence in their house.

C. QUEENSBERRY.'

"P. S. Particularly when the King and Queen told me they had not read Mr. Gay's plays. I have certainly done right then to justify my own behaviour, rather than act like his grace of Grafton, who has neither made use of truth, honour, nor judgment, in this whole affair, either for himself or his friends."

Prince Frederick, the King's eldest son, born in 1706, had hitherto resided in Hanover; but some doubts having been expressed, whether the heir apparent ought not to reside in Great Britain, it was at length determined in 1728 that he should come over: his arrival took place on the 4th of December, and in a few weeks he was introduced into the Privy Council, and created Prince of Wales. Shortly afterwards, his royal father, wishing to extend the alliance already subsisting between his house and that of Prussia, by a double marriage with their respective children, sent over Sir Charles Hotham, about the year 1729, as minister plenipotentiary to the King of Prussia, to propose a marriage between the Prince of Wales and the eldest Princess of Prussia: and another between the Prince Royal of Prussia, and the King of England's second daughter. His Prussian Majesty's answer was, "that he would consent to the marriage of his Prince Royal with our Princess, if our King did not insist upon a double marriage on the terms proposed; but that

if he did, he would not consent to either of them; for he thought he had as much right to expect our Princess Royal for his eldest son, as our King had to expect his Princess Royal for his Prince of Wales." The two Kings persisting in their resolutions, there was an end of the negotiation, but not of the difference.

About the same time, a dispute respecting Mecklenburg contributed, with this family quarrel, to irritate the two Monarchs more bitterly against each other. Emissaries were employed to inveigle many of the King's Hanoverian subjects into the Prussian service, which produced ineffectual remonstrances, and measures of retaliation. The two Sovereigns corresponded with each other in terms very little becoming their quality; and having exhausted the vocabulary of virulent epithets, they came, at last, to the determination of settling their grounds of difference in a personal interview.

Bielfeld, in his letters, says, that King George made choice of Brigadier-general Sutton for his second, as Frederick did of colonel Derscheim. The territory of Hildesheim was pitched upon for the place of meeting; his Britannic Majesty being then at Hanover, and the King of Prussia at Saltzdahl, near Brunswick. Borck, the Prussian minister at the court of London, having been dismissed from thence in a very abrupt manner, re-

paired to his master at the last-mentioned place, and finding him in a violent passion, did not think proper to attempt dissuading him from his purpose. On the contrary, he affected to approve of the measure, and even offered to carry a challenge; but about an hour afterwards, coming into the King's apartment, he took the liberty of saying, "Sire, I allow that your Majesty's quarrel is not to be terminated in any other way than by a duel; but as you are just recovered from a dangerous illness, and your health being still very precarious, should you be taken with a relapse the day before the interview, or perhaps at the very time when it is to take place, what would the world say, and how would the King of England boast! How many scandalous constructions would be put on this accident! What an odious suspicion might it not bring on your Majesty's courage! These things considered, do not you think, Sire, it would be better to delay the affair for a fortnight?"

The King yielded reluctantly to the force of these reasons, and the challenge was not sent; the ministers on both sides gained time, the choler of the royal disputants abated, and the following year the quarrel was made up.

The Prince remained a bachelor for some years afterwards, living a quiet English life, though not unobservant of the politics of the day. Walpole, indeed, states that the Prince had some thoughts

of marrying Lady Diana Spencer, grand-daughter of the great Duke of Marlborough; her grandmother, Sarah, engaging to give her a fortune of 100,000*l.* He adds, that it would have taken place, but for Sir Robert's opposition.

His Majesty and Queen Caroline generally passed the summer months at Richmond; and the Prince, admiring the scenery in that vicinity, in the year 1730 first took a long lease of Kew House from the Capel family, the fee of which was many years afterwards purchased from the Countess Dowager of Essex by George III. Here the Prince began those pleasure-grounds, which were not quite completed until after his demise by the Princess Dowager, and since increased in size by their union with Richmond Gardens.

That the Prince, even in youth, was by no means inattentive to public affairs, is proved by an anecdote, which states, that from various causes, at the beginning of his father's reign, the money appropriated for the payment of the royal household expenses and servants' wages was made use of for other purposes, till by degrees, instead of being paid punctually every quarter, they at last became above two years in arrear, the consequences of which were, that many persons being obliged to borrow at very large premiums, were entirely ruined; others were in continual danger of being thrown into prison; while

the King himself was served with the worst of every thing!

One day at dinner, the King actually complained to the Prince of the badness of the provisions; on which his Royal Highness caught at the opportunity, and acquainted the Monarch with the distressed situation of his tradesmen and domestics; adding, that if his Majesty should die, they would certainly lose all that was due to them. The King was astonished, and expressed equal concern and surprise; and instantly spoke to Sir Robert Walpole, then prime minister, on the subject, insisting on some speedy method being taken to clear off the whole of the arrears. In consequence of this, Walpole had a bill brought into parliament for making good the deficiencies of the civil list; soon after which all arrears were paid, and a system adopted by means of which regular payments ever after took place at the close of each quarter, so that on the royal demise the current debts were merely of a trifling amount during the broken quarter

Even at this early period, the Prince was looked up to as a patron of literature; and in 1732, Tindal having dedicated to him his edition of Rapin, his Royal Highness sent that gentleman a gold medal, worth forty guineas, as a mark of distinction and of future favour.

It has been said of the great Duke of Marlbo-

rough, that, so engaging were his manners and deportment, he made as many friends by refusing favours as by granting them: how far this was applicable to the parent of our revered Monarch, may be drawn from the following anecdote.

A clause in the Tithing Bill, relative to the Quakers, being in agitation in the House of Commons, in the year 1735, a deputation from the Friends waited on his Royal Highness to solicit his interest in favour of that clause. His answer was every way worthy of his high character: "That, as a friend to liberty in general, and toleration in particular, he wished that they might meet with all proper favour; but, for himself, he never gave his vote in parliament, and it did not become his station to influence his friends, or direct his servants: to leave them entirely to their own conscience and understanding, was a rule he had hitherto prescribed to himself, and purposed through his whole life to observe."

The reply from Andrew Pitt, the person who spoke in the name of the body, was not less remarkable: "May it please the Prince of Wales, I am greatly affected with thy excellent notions of liberty; and am more pleased with thy answer, than if thou hadst granted to us our request."

It has been thought that the Prince, about this period, did not disdain to be an author; and it is even asserted by Seward in his Anecdotes, that

he was a great reader of French memoirs, and actually wrote the "History of Prince Titi," in imitation of them. Not trusting to his own critical knowledge of the English language, he gave it to Ralph, the historian, for his correction; but that gentleman died before the completion of his task, and the book was found amongst his papers by one of his executors, and was printed in 1736, a copy appearing in Paris the same year; some, however, think that the French really was the original.

The Prince's union with the Princess Augusta of Saxe Gotha, born in 1719, took place in 1736; the particulars of which may serve as an illustration of the times.

Her Highness arrived in the William and Mary yacht at Greenwich, on Sunday, April 25, 1736, and landing at the hospital, was conducted in one of his Majesty's coaches, by Lord Delawar, to the Queen's House in the Park, amidst the acclamations of thousands of spectators. Her Highness seemed highly delighted with the joy the people expressed at her arrival, and had the goodness to shew herself for above half an hour from the gallery towards the Park. The Prince of Wales came to pay her a visit; and their Majesties, the Duke, and Princesses, sent their compliments.

Monday, 26th. The Prince of Wales dined with her Highness at Greenwich, in one of the rooms towards the Park, the windows being thrown open,

to oblige the curiosity of the people. His Royal Highness afterwards gave her the diversion of passing on the water, as far as the Tower and back again, in his barge, finely adorned, and preceded by a concert of music. The ships saluted their Highnesses all the way they passed, and hung out their streamers and colours, and the river was covered with boats. Their Highnesses afterwards supped in public.

Tuesday, 27th. Her Highness came in his Majesty's coach from Greenwich to Lambeth, crossed the water at Lambeth, and was brought in the Queen's chair, from Whitehall to St. James's, where was a numerous and splendid court beyond expression. The Prince of Wales received her at the garden-door; and upon her sinking on her knee to kiss his hand, he affectionately raised her up, and twice saluted her. His Royal Highness led her up stairs to their Majesties' apartments, where, presenting her to the King, her Highness fell on her knee to kiss his hand, but was gently taken up and saluted by him. Her Highness was then presented to the Queen in like manner, and afterwards to the Duke and Princesses, who congratulated her on her arrival. Her Highness dined with the Prince of Wales and the Princesses. At eight the procession began to the chapel, and the joining of hands was proclaimed to the people by firing guns. Her Highness was in her hair, wear-

ing a crown with one bar as Princess of Wales, and set all over with diamonds. Her robe likewise, as Princess of Wales, being of crimson velvet, turned back with several rows of ermine, and having her train supported by Lady Caroline Lenox, daughter to his grace the Duke of Richmond; Lady Caroline Fitzroy, daughter to his grace the Duke of Grafton; Lady Caroline Cavendish, daughter to his grace the Duke of Devonshire; and Lady Sophia Fermor, daughter to the Earl of Pomfret: all of whom were in virgin habits of silver like the Princess, and adorned with diamonds not less in value than from 20 to 30,000*l.* each. Her Highness was led by his royal highness the Duke, and conducted by his grace the Duke of Grafton, lord chamberlain of the household, and the Lord Hervey, vice chamberlain; and attended by the Countess of Effingham, and the other ladies of the household. The marriage service was read by the Lord Bishop of London, dean of the chapel; and after the same was over, a fine anthem was performed by a great number of voices and instruments. When the procession returned, his Royal Highness led his bride; and coming into the drawing-room, their Royal Highnesses kneeled down and received their Majesties' blessing. At half an hour after ten, their Majesties sat down to supper in *ambigu*, the Prince and Duke being on the King's right hand,

and the Princess of Wales and the four Princesses on the Queen's left. Their Majesties retiring to the apartments of the Prince of Wales, the bride was conducted to her bed-chamber, and the bridegroom to his dressing-room, where the Duke undressed him, and his Majesty did his Royal Highness the honour to put on his shirt. The bride was undressed by the Princesses, and being in bed in a rich undress, his Majesty came into the room and the Prince following soon after in a nightgown of silver stuff, and cap of the finest lace; the quality were admitted to see the bride and bridegroom sitting up in the bed, surrounded by the Royal Family. His Majesty was dressed in a gold brocade turned up with silk, embroidered with large flowers in silver and colours, as was the waistcoat: the buttons and star were diamonds. Her Majesty was in a plain yellow silk, robed and faced with pearl, diamonds, and other jewels of immense value. The Dukes of Grafton, Newcastle, and St. Alban's, the Earl of Albemarle, Lord Hervey, col. Pelham, and many other noblemen, were in gold brocades of 3 to 500*l.* a suit. The Duke of Marlborough was in a white velvet and gold brocade, upon which was an exceedingly rich point d'Espagne; the Earl of Euston and many others were in clothes flowered or sprigged with gold; the Duke of Montagu in a gold brocaded tissue. The waistcoats were universally

brocades, with large flowers. It was observed, most of the rich clothes were the manufacture of England; and in honour of our own artists, the few which wore French did not come up to these in richness, goodness, or fancy, as was seen by the clothes worn by the Royal Family, which were all of the British manufacture. The cuffs of the sleeves were universally deep and open, the waists long, and the plaits more sticking out than ever. The ladies were principally in brocades of gold and silver, and wore their sleeves much lower than had been done for some time."

Walpole in one of his letters to a friend, speaking of this marriage, says, "I believe the Princess will have more beauties bestowed on her by the occasional poets, than even a painter would afford her. They will cook up a new Pandora, and in the bottom of the box inclose Hope, that all they have said is true." In another letter he says, that Lord Baltimore made a whimsical mistake in speaking to the Prince on his marriage, "Sir, your Royal Highness's marriage will form a new *area* in the history of England."

It is also worth recording, that the first speech ever made in parliament by the illustrious Pitt, the first Earl of Chatham, was to second an address moved by Lord, then Mr. Lyttelton, congratulatory on the marriage of the Prince of Wales.

Amongst the numerous epithalamia on this interesting occasion, the following lines from the pen of Whitehead, the Laureat, deserve insertion, as containing a wish which succeeding events fully gratified.

"Such was the age, so calm the earth's repose,
When Maro sung, and a new Pollio rose.
Oh! from such omens may again succeed
Some glorious youth to grace the nuptial bed;
Some future Scipio, good as well as great;
Some young Marcellus with a better fate;
Some infant Frederick, or some George to grace
The rising records of the Brunswick Race."

It was in the month of August that the unhappy *fracas* took place between the King and the Prince of Wales, the former having for some time looked coldly on his son, in consequence of a parliamentary motion by Mr. Pulteney during the preceding session, for increasing the heir-apparent's income to 100,000*l.*; his Majesty suspecting that the Prince favoured the Opposition, and was forming connexions unfavourable to the existing ministry.

It is said that the Princess of Wales, then in parturition with the Princess Augusta, had advanced to the last month of her pregnancy, before the King or Queen were made acquainted with it; and that at the very moment when her labour-pains were coming on, the Prince had hurried her from Hampton Court to St. James's Palace, still

keeping her state unknown to the King. About two hours after her arrival she was delivered; and when the King was acquainted with the event, he sent a message to the Prince, signifying his displeasure at conduct which he considered as an indignity both to himself and the Queen. The Prince, in several submissive letters, endeavoured to deprecate his Majesty's anger; the Princess joined her entreaties; they implored Queen Caroline's mediation; but all their supplications had no effect: the King's anger increased; but it is said that he was imposed on by some who found their interest in fomenting this difference. In a little time he sent another message to the Prince, importing that his conduct had for some time been void of all real duty; that until he withdrew from his confidence some persons by whose advice he was directed, he should not reside in the palace; and that, as soon as it could be done without prejudice to the Princess, he should remove from it with all his family. "In obedience to this mandate, the Prince retired to Kew, and afterwards lived at Cliefden and Norfolk House, like a private gentleman; cultivating the polite arts with uncommon assiduity; beloved, revered, and respected by the whole nation; virtuous, religious, and beneficent; an affectionate husband, a true friend, and a kind master: he possessed an enlivening genius, that like the beam of glory added new

lustre, and kindled fresh warmth, by its appearance; his countenance was cheerful, his person graceful, and all his manners affable and engaging; none ever went from his presence dissatisfied, and all ranks met him with pleasure and affection: he was the minion of a free people, and the companion of the wise and honest, by whom he was incessantly courted; he distinguished himself, without offering the least indecency as a son or subject to his royal parents, with many noble and worthy patriots, by opposing the oppressive and rapacious designs of the minister."

Such was the character given in a political pamphlet published in 1762; and we may further add that it was at this period he was persuaded by Lyttelton more particularly to patronize literature and literary men, beginning with Mallet and Thomson, and soon filling up an extensive circle. Connected with this, we may record that although the London Theatres had been long subject to regulations by patent, yet dramatic exhibition had been, in some measure, free; but in this year a new era took place, viz. the establishment of a dramatic censor, in the person of the Lord Chamberlain, without whose licence no new pieces were to be performed. This arose from the representation of some dramatic jeux d'esprit in which Walpole had been severely satirized, and ludicrously ridiculed; and accordingly he had a

bill brought in for limiting the number of play-houses, and establishing a licence. The witty Lord Chesterfield, in the Peers, opposed this bill as infringing the liberty of the press: but the bill was carried through by ministerial majorities. From the time of the quarrel, no personal interviews took place between the Prince and his parents until the month of November, when Queen Caroline was taken ill, languished a few days, and expired of a mortification in her bowels on the 20th of November, in her 55th year, universally regretted. It was much lamented at the time, that the Prince could not be admitted into her presence during her last moments, to receive her forgiveness and blessing; and this the more, because she enjoyed the esteem of the people at large, though split by party; but in that they were unanimous, from her sagacity, mildness, and numerous virtues, shewing herself at all times as an amiable pattern of conjugal fidelity and affection, notwithstanding the infidelities of her royal partner.

The circumstances of her departure, as stated by an eye-witness, are highly deserving of record. A little before she expired, she said to a physician, "How long can this last?" and on his saying, "Your Majesty will soon be eased of your pains," her reply was, "The sooner the better:" after which she repeated a prayer of her own

composing, in which there was such a flow of natural eloquence as amazed the bystanders, and demonstrated the power and vigour of a great and good mind.

When her speech began to falter, and she was thought expiring, she summoned all her strength, and all the power of her departing spirit, to assist her for one glorious moment, that she might make her end to her immortal honour, in a manner worthy of a good Christian, and worthy of herself. For this purpose she desired to be raised up in her bed, and fearing that nature would not hold out long enough without artificial support, she called to have water thrown on her, and a little after desired that it might be repeated; by which means having gathered up some strength, she, with the greatest composure and presence of mind, requested her weeping royal relations to kneel down and pray for her, which they immediately did. Whilst they were reciting their prayers, as well as circumstances of such unutterable distress would admit, she said, "Pray aloud, that I may hear;" and after the Lord's Prayer was concluded, in which she joined as well as she could, she said, "So——!" and then waving her hand, with the utmost tranquillity lay down, and uttered her last sigh! proving her frequent declaration that "she had made it the business of her life to

discharge her duty to God and man in the best manner she was able."

Through life she had been the patroness of literature; and amongst the numerous pensioners of her Majesty's bounty, may be classed the celebrated Whiston, who was often admitted, not only to private parties, but also to more familiar interviews, when she always paid him his salary, in the most delicate manner, by her own hands. The Queen observed to him one day, that she understood he was a free speaker, and in the habit of telling people honestly their faults; adding, that as no one was without faults, she wished to be informed of her own. After due reserve on the part of Whiston, and even intreaties on the part of her Majesty, the philosopher at length replied, "Well, since your Majesty insists upon it, I must obey you. There are abundance of people who come out of the country every spring to London upon business, and they all naturally desire to see the King and Queen, and have no opportunity of seeing your Majesties so conveniently as at the Chapel Royal; but these country folks, who are not used to such things, when they see your Majesty talking with the King almost all the time of divine service, are perfectly astonished, and depart with strange impressions into their respective counties, where they make their re-

ports not at all to your Majesty's honour."—"I am sorry for it," replied the Queen; "I believe there is some truth in what you say, and will amend it."

Some weeks afterwards the Queen renewed the subject, and asked Whiston for another fault; but he replied most pointedly and laconically, "Excuse me, Madam, I never mention a second fault until I see that the first has been remedied!"

Queen Caroline had a fine taste as well as considerable literary talents; and the late Daines Barrington, in his very ingenious paper on the progress of gardening, gives this account of her designs and improvements:—

"It is believed," says he, "that George I. rather improved the gardens at Herenhausen than those of any of his English palaces. In the succeeding reign, Queen Caroline threw a string of ponds in Hyde Park into one, so as to form what is called the Serpentine River, from its being not exactly straight, as all ponds and canals were before. She is likewise well known to have planted and laid out the gardens both of Richmond and Kensington, upon a larger scale, and in better taste, than we have any instances before that period. She seems also to have been the first introducer of expensive buildings in gardens, if one at Lord Barrington's is excepted."

This taste for improvement, however, had

nearly led her into impropriety; for it is recorded that she had formed a plan to have St. James's Park inclosed, and shut up from the public. This plan she had so far matured, as seriously to ask a nobleman at court, how much he thought it would cost? who replied, "A mere trifle, madam! not more than *fifteen shillings!*" The Queen started; but recollecting that fifteen shillings amounted to *three crowns*, she felt the force of his reply, and gave up her intentions.

We have already noticed her dutiful conduct towards her royal partner; and we may add, that she made it a constant rule to be with him as much as possible, always accompanying him even in his morning and evening garden walks, and that, too, at times when her own precarious health required the utmost care of her own person.

Her character may be summed up with this observation, that although she had such an ascendancy over the mind of her husband, she never abused it either by encouraging political intrigue, or advancing any particular favourites. Yet it must not be omitted that Lord Chesterfield spoke differently of her; for he says, "she was a woman of lively, pretty parts. Her death was regretted by none but the King. She died meditating projects, which must have ended either in her own ruin, or in that of the country." Her greatest ambition was to cultivate the esteem of

men of learning, as her chief pleasure consisted in promoting the cause of virtue, in relieving the afflicted, and assisting modest merit. She corresponded with Leibnitz on the most friendly terms, but she encouraged Dr. Clarke in his controversy with that lively, yet superficial metaphysician; and the Doctor used to say, "that she understood what answers were to be given to Leibnitz's arguments, before he drew up his reply to them, as well as he himself did."

Her tenderness for the feelings of others was always superior to court etiquette. Of this she gave a proof in the well-authenticated anecdote, that one day observing that one of the princesses had made one of her ladies stand a long time whilst she was talking to her on some trifling subject, the Queen determined to take an early opportunity of giving to her daughter a practical reprimand for her conduct, which should carry more weight with it than a mere precept could convey.

For this purpose, when her Royal Highness came as usual to read to her in the evening, and was drawing a chair to sit down, the Queen motioned to her to stand, and thus to commence the amusement of the hour; and for an hour she kept her standing, until seeing her almost exhausted, her Majesty observed, "Now, my dear you may sit down; you will thus be able to judge

of the impropriety of subjecting others to etiquette unnecessarily."

The Queen has been accused of rather affecting a fondness for learning than possessing any real taste for it. Perhaps this may have partly arisen from her telling Sale, the orientalist, that she read Bishop Butler's abstruse book on the Analogy of Religion to Human Nature, as the companion of her breakfast-table; and this too, a work which the learned Hoadly, bishop of Winchester, complained of as making his head ache if he only looked into it.

It was hoped by the nation that this melancholy event would have produced a reconciliation between its Monarch and heir apparent; but this not taking place, seems to give some countenance to the assertion that something more than a mere political quarrel had taken place, and that an additional reason was, some harsh language used to the Princess, which her husband resented in such a manner as to produce an order for the instant removal of himself and family. Thus stood affairs in the beginning of 1738.

On the 23d of May, old style, the Princess of Wales so little expected a premature labour, that in the evening she amused herself in walking with the Prince in St. James's Park: but was taken ill during the night, and between six and seven in the morning, after her return to Norfolk house,

was delivered of His late Majesty, by Mrs. Cannon of Jermyn Street, the Archbishop of Canterbury being the only great officer of state then present. As early as five, Lord Baltimore had been sent to Kensington to acquaint the King with the commencing labour of her Royal Highness, and at eight the Marquis of Caernarvon announced the happy birth of an heir presumptive, who was, however, only a seven months' child.

In the course of the day, the 24th of May, which the subsequent alteration of style changed to the 4th of June in the year 1752, the young Prince was so extremely ill that fears were entertained for his life: and at eleven at night he was privately baptized by the Bishop of Oxford, by the name of George. The next day brought better health, and the royal mother was also announced to be in a fair way.

The poetical effusion of the Poet Laureat on this happy event merits insertion, as a beautiful prophetic compliment to the future Monarch.

"Thanks, Nature! thanks! the finish'd piece we own,
And worthy Frederick's love, and Britain's throne.
Th' impatient Goddess first had sketch'd the plan,
Yet ere she durst complete the wond'rous man,
To try her power, a gentler task design'd,
And form'd a pattern of the softer kind.*
But now, bright boy, thy more exalted ray
Streams o'er the dawn, and pours a fuller day;

* The Princess Augusta, late Duchess of Brunswick.

Nor shall, displeased, to thee her realms resign,
The earlier promise of the rising line.
And see! what signs his future worth proclaim,
See! our *Ascanius* boast a noble flame!
On the fair form let vulgar fancies trace,
Some fond presage in ev'ry dawning grace;
More unconfin'd, poetic transport roves,
Sees all the soul, and all the soul approves:
Sees regal pride but reach the exterior part,
And big with virtues beat the little heart;
Whilst from his eyes soft beams of mercy flow,
And liberty supreme smiles on his infant brow.
Now, in herself secure, shall Albion rise,
And the vain frowns of future fate despise;
See willing worlds beneath her sceptre bend,
And to the verge of Time, her fame extend!"

SECTION II.

1738—1760.

Royal Baptism and Infancy—Anecdotes of Education—Prince of Wales, anecdotes, character, and demise—Death and Character of George II.—Accession of George III. &c. &c. &c.

THE public ceremony of baptism did not take place until the 22d of June, old style, and was celebrated by the Bishop of Oxford, as rector of St. James's parish. It was performed at Norfolk house, the godfathers (by proxy) being the King of Sweden and the Duke of Saxe Gotha, and the Queen of Prussia (also by proxy) was the godmother.

The Princess, according to etiquette, sat on a bed of state; and the full name given was, GEORGE WILLIAM FREDERICK*.

* As every event connected with the infancy of our lamented Sovereign must excite a deep interest at the present moment, we cannot omit the following particulars from a periodical work of established repute, given on the authority of a lady,

A circumstance took place upon this occasion which deserves particular notice, as it differs in some degree from modern practice.

who, when living, was personally acquainted with his Majesty's nurse and her daughter.

"The King, as most people have heard, was a seven months' child, and, from that circumstance, so weakly at the period of his birth, that serious apprehensions were entertained that it would be impossible to rear him. It was, in consequence, thought advisable to wave the strict etiquette hitherto maintained, of having for the Royal infant a nobly descended nurse in favour of one of the middle ranks of life—the fine, healthy, fresh-coloured wife of a gardener, probably the head gardener of one of the palaces. This person, besides the recommendations of an excellent constitution, and much experimental skill, was characterized by qualities which so endeared her to the King, that his attachment towards her never, during her existence, experienced the slightest diminution. She possessed great quickness of feeling, much goodness of heart, with a disposition both disinterested and candid.

"The two former of these qualities appear to have instantly opened her affections to the nursling offered to her care: not, however, from pride, at the idea of its being a babe of Royal blood; but from the maternal tenderness excited while contemplating the delicate little being, whose frail tenure on life she was confident, under her management, would become strong and permanent. These feelings caused her at the first proposal cheerfully to undertake the anxious charge; but when it was made known to her, that, according to the court etiquette, the Royal infant could not be allowed to sleep with her—from an etiquette so cold, and, in the present case, so likely, in her opinion, to prove prejudicial, she instantly revolted, and, in terms both warm and blunt, thus expressed herself:—"Not sleep with me! then you may nurse the boy yourselves."

Two days after the birth of the Prince, the lord-mayor, with several aldermen and the sheriffs, waited on the King at Kensington, not with an

"To no compromise, or rather reasoning, offered, would she listen; but continued resolutely to refuse to take charge of the royal infant, if bound to observe a ceremony which no argument could make her think otherwise than alike unnatural and unhealthy.

"This refusal of an office, which many persons would have been ambitious of filling under any restrictions whatever, upon motives, too, so purely disinterested, convinced those with whom she was in debate, of her conscientious belief, that unless the infant Prince was intrusted to her sole management, she must, in accepting the charge, engage to act in opposition to her own judgment, and thus sacrifice what she considered her duty to him. Influenced by this conviction, they properly represented the affair to the powers by whom they were employed; in consequence of which, the point of court ceremony was yielded to Mrs. ———. To this conscientious obstinacy on her part, it is more than probable that the nation owes the blessing it has for so many years enjoyed, of being governed by one of the best of men, and of kings, that ever united in himself the virtues which grace both characters. But to return—

"The affection of his Majesty for his nurse 'grew with his growth and strengthened with his strength;' but as his power did not keep pace with his increasing regard, it was long before he could prove that regard to her and her family as substantially as his heart yearned to do. His income was considered, even at that time, as too limited for one of his high rank; and of course, though regulated by the strictest prudence and economy, he had little to spare, from the necessary expenses of his household, for the gratification of his generous feelings. These were often distressingly called forth by the

address, which was afterwards presented in their corporate capacity, but with their congratulations, and, as stated, Mr. Baron Thomson "made their compliments" in the following terms:

"Most Gracious Sovereign,

"The Lord-Mayor and Court of Aldermen of the City of London, most humbly intreat your Majesty's permission to congratulate your Majesty on the safe delivery of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales and the birth of a Prince.

"These your Majesty's most faithful and dutiful subjects, have a great satisfaction on every opportunity of paying their personal duty to your Ma-

situation of his nurse, who, after he was grown up, whether from misfortune, or from her husband's extravagance, was frequently in great want of money. On these occasions she always went to the Prince, well knowing that if he could relieve their distress, it would immediately be done; and if not, that his affectionate sympathy would soothe her mind.—Never was she disappointed of this consolation; for when the Prince found himself unable to administer to their exigencies, he has actually been known to mingle his tears with her's—a sympathy which speaks volumes in love and admiration of the heart that felt it.

"Whether his nurse lived to taste his Majesty's generosity to the full extent he felt it—if ever heard by the writer, memory has lost; but the daughter (who married, the writer thinks, a doctor of divinity, and was perhaps the King's foster sister,) was made laundress to his Majesty—a sinecure place of good emolument."

jesty; and it gives them the highest joy, when the occasion proceeds from any good attending your Royal family.

"They esteem this addition to it as a very happy event, and one of the very many good effects of an alliance formed by your Majesty's prudence for strengthening the Protestant interest, and for the welfare and prosperity of this nation.

"Your Majesty's constant vigilance in promoting these good ends, claims the most dutiful acknowledgments from all your Majesty's subjects; and your late most gracious assurance of your Majesty's particular care for the protection of your trading subjects, and the security of their commerce, demand, in a more especial manner, the most grateful return from the Citizens of London. And I have the honour to assure your Majesty, that you may always depend on their most affectionate regard to your Royal Person, on their utmost endeavours, in their sphere, for the support of your Majesty's government upon all occasions, and on their hearty wishes to your Majesty, of a long, an easy, and a happy reign."

These really were "Good old Times;" and to this honest old-fashioned address, the King as plainly replied, that he took their congratulations on the birth of a Prince very kindly, and looked upon it as a fresh instance of their duty and affection towards him and his family.

The addresses on this occasion were very numerous. The City of London spoke of the birth of the Prince as "strengthening and establishing the religious and civil rights of this country and the liberties of Europe;" adding "and when in course of time this Prince shall come to reign, may he, by the example of his Royal predecessors, have learned to rule a free but obedient people, and become the guardian of those liberties which, by their precepts, he will have been taught to protect." Again, in their address to the Royal parents, the corporation said,—"We doubt not but by your Royal Highnesses care, this young Prince will be early taught those virtuous maxims which alone can make a prince and people happy: and that by the example of his Majesty, and your Royal Highnesses, he will learn also that the glory as well as the security of the throne, must be founded in the hearts and affections of the people."—To which the Prince answered, "My son, I hope, may come in time to deserve the gratitude of a free people, which his Majesty now enjoys: and it shall be my constant care to instruct him that true loyalty can only be the result of liberty."

It was observed by a political writer of that day, in speaking of the addresses to the King and Prince, and the royal answers, as examples of loyalty, freedom, and constitutional feeling, that, "as far as words will go, *Cato* and Brutus could not

have said more in behalf of liberty." But how different were the proceedings in a neighbouring state, at that very period, in the answer of the young French King, Louis XV. to the remonstrance of his parliament, presented by the Deputies, with the First President at their head.

"Gentlemen,

"I will order every point you advance to be examined. I know that some things are *false* and *misrepresented.* I sent to acquaint you that your remonstrances were to no effect, though they teaze and fatigue me very much. I take it extremely ill that my parliament should presume to concern themselves about the rights of my kingdom, which belong only to me, and for which I am *accountable.*"

Notwithstanding the public rejoicings and joy at this event, the Prince of Wales still continued under the Royal displeasure, and an order was actually published in the Gazette forbidding all persons who visited him from appearing at St. James's; but this only threw the Prince into the arms of the Opposition, who now became greatly strengthened, and Norfolk house, in St. James's Square, then his residence, actually appeared the fashionable court of the day, not from disrespect to the King, but from the general dislike to Walpole.

The Prince's establishment was at this time under such embarrassments that it was found necessary to borrow money upon terms even usurious. The Duchess of Marlborough in one of her letters says—" They have found a way in the city to borrow 30,000*l.* for the Prince, at 10 per cent. interest, to pay his crying debts to tradespeople; but I doubt that sum will not go very far. The salaries in the Prince's family are 25,000*l.* a year, besides a good deal of expense at Cliefden in building and furniture; and the Prince and Princess's allowance for their clothes is 6000*l.* a year each. I am sorry there is such an increase of expense more than in former times, when there was more money a great deal: and I really think it would have been more for the Prince's interest if his counsellors had advised him to live only as a great man, and to give the reasons for it; and in doing so he would have made a better figure, and been safer, for nobody that does not get by it themselves, can possibly think the contrary method a right one."

On the 17th of October, the Prince and Princess of Wales arrived at Bath, where they were received by the corporation with all formalities, and shortly after presented with an address on the birth-day of the King, in which were used the following whimsical though loyal expressions—" In a birth, to which we owe the continuance of those

invaluable blessings which our successful struggles for liberty procured us in that glorious act of succession; a birth to which we are indebted, sir, for your Royal person, in whose presence we enjoy all possible happiness, &c. &c."

It is a curious fact, that the magistrates actually found it necessary to regulate the price of provisions on account of this Royal visit.

Their Royal Highnesses also visited Bristol, and accepted a grand entertainment from the corporation and principal inhabitants; and so great was the anxiety to see them, that five pounds were repeatedly offered for tickets merely of admission to the apartment where it was celebrated.

The Prince, before leaving Bath, not only cleared the prisons of all debtors, but also made a present of one thousand guineas towards the general hospital.

In allusion to this visit, Cave, the publisher, giving an account of a journey taken by him in the summer of 1750 to Gloucester, "As soon as I could ride," says he, "I went to Westminster, the seat of Mr. Cambridge, who entertained the Prince there, and in his boat on the Severn. He kept me one night, and took me down part of his river to the Severn, where I sailed in one of his boats, and took a view of another of a peculiar make, having two keels, or being rather two long canoes, connected by a floor or stage. I was then

towed back again to sup and repose. Next morning he explained to me the contrivance of some waterfalls, which seem to come from a piece of water, which is four feet lower. The three following days I spent in returning to town, and could not find time to write at an inn.

"I need not tell you, that the Prince appeared highly pleased with every thing that Mr. Cambridge shewed, though he called him upon deck often to be seen by the people on the shore, who came in prodigious crowds, and thronged from place to place to have a view as often as they could, not satisfied with one; so that many who came between the towing-line and the bank of the river, were thrown into it, and his Royal Highness could scarce forbear laughing, but sedately said to them, 'I am sorry for your condition.'"

1739.

On the first anniversary of the birth-day of the infant heir presumptive, there was a great concourse of nobility and gentry at Norfolk house, to congratulate their Royal Highnesses, accompanied with a whimsical exhibition of sixty youths, all under twelve years of age, sons of eminent citizens, who had formed themselves into a Lilliputian company of foot soldiers, in proper military clothing, and arrived at Norfolk house in hackney coaches, when the Prince went to receive them

with an invitation to enter. They accordingly alighted, formed into close column, and marched into the princely residence with drums beating, colours flying, and music playing before them. In this order they proceeded up stairs into the drawing-room, where they were received by their elected colonel, Prince George, who was adorned with a hat and feather; after which they were permitted to kiss his hand, as well as those of the new-born Edward, and the Princess Augusta.

A long period of peace was then succeeded by the commencement of a warfare which may be now said to have continued nearly during the whole life of our lamented Monarch. If peace is a blessing, the nation was certainly indebted for what they had so long enjoyed to a minister whose name has never been very popular—Walpole and political corruption having been asserted to be synonimous. But great allowances must be made for party spirit, and the peculiar circumstances of those times, when there was another claimant to the throne, and the opinions of the kingdom perhaps nearly equally divided.

It has been said that Walpole preferred peace to war, from a doubt of his own abilities; for though allowed to be a good minister in the knowledge of interior business, he was not esteemed so accurate a judge of continental matters, and, for this reason, he committed the care of the foreign depart-

ment entirely to his brother Horace, who, if he had not a quick and decided comprehension in those matters, was allowed to understand them very much in detail; indeed so much, that whenever differences arose in the house relative to the dates or substances of treaties, manifestoes, &c. he could, from memory, turn to them with great promptness and accuracy.

Both brothers being at a rout one night, the lady of the house pressed Sir Robert very much to take a hand at whist, which he declined: at the end of the first rubber she again pressed him, when he excused himself by saying, "I am sorry, madam, to be under the necessity of refusing you in any request you make; but play, and *the affairs of the continent*, I leave entirely to my brother."

One of the great objects of Sir Robert Walpole's administration was to keep the kingdom in peace, if possible; which he contrived to do for near twenty years, a longer interval scarcely occurring since our wars with France first began. In this great object, no doubt, he was much assisted by the pacific and political temper of cardinal Fleury, prime minister of France, and both kingdoms benefited much by such a measure. Walpole was at last *forced* into the Spanish war of 1739, partly by the intrigues of Opposition, and partly by the restless character of the public, who wished for a change at any price, and by which he soon

after lost his place. He used jocularly to call this war "The War of *Ears*, in which the *head* had no manner of concern."

The Prince's family had now retired to Cliefden, in Buckinghamshire, where an elegant but moderate festivity was kept up; and on the 1st of August, 1740, an entertainment of a peculiar kind was given by Frederick Prince of Wales in the gardens, in commemoration of the accession of his family to the British throne. It consisted of the appropriate masque of Alfred, written for the purpose by Thomson and Mallet; the masque of the Judgment of Paris; and some scenes from Rich's pantomimes by that performer and Lalauze, with dancing by Signora Barbarini, then lately arrived from Paris. The whole was exhibited upon a theatre in the garden, composed of plants, and decorated with festoons of flowers; at the end of which was erected a pavilion for the Prince and Princess of Wales, Prince George, and the Princess Augusta, afterwards Duchess of Brunswick. The performers in Alfred were Quin (who represented the Hermit), Millward, Mills, Selway, Mrs. Clive, and Mrs. Horton. The whole of the entertainment concluded with fireworks made by Dr. Desaguliers.

1741—1742.

On the 20th January, 1741, the royal infants were first prayed for; and the public were much gra-

tified by a reconciliation between the King and the Prince of Wales, which was happily brought about early in the year 1742, several messages passing from Leicester house to the Palace on the 16th of February, and an interview taking place on the ensuing day, at St. James's, at one o'clock, when a most gracious reception sealed the happy event. On this occasion the utmost joy was displayed throughout the whole empire; in celebration of which, also, the Prince did many generous acts, particularly at Windsor, where he released twenty-four prisoners, from the debtors' gaol, and gave to each a guinea on his liberation.

The reconciliation was brought about in a manner highly creditable to the Prince himself; for the ministers, finding themselves in repeated minorities in the new parliament, now thought of strengthening themselves by Royal Family concord, and the Earl of Cholmondeley entrusted the Bishop of Oxford with a message to the Prince, that if he would write such a letter as it might be consistent with his Majesty's honour to receive, then the Prince and all that were in his counsels and confidence should be kindly received at court; that 50,000*l.* per annum should be added to his revenue; that 200,000*l.* should be disbursed to pay his debts; and that his followers should be provided for. The Prince instantly acted without consulting any one; and replied, that as he

had the utmost duty for the King, so whenever his Majesty should be pleased to admit him to his presence, he would throw himself at his feet without insisting upon any terms for himself; but whilst Sir Robert Walpole managed the public affairs, he could not prevail with himself to give any countenance to them. He added that Walpole was a bar between the King and his people; between the King and foreign powers; between the King and himself; and further said, explicitly and pointedly, that such was his answer, considering the message as coming from Walpole, and not from his Royal Parent.

Notwithstanding this disappointment, Walpole still struggled against minorities in the Commons, until the 2d of February, when he declared that if he failed on the question of the Chippenham election, he would enter that House no more. He had a majority of sixteen against him when the division took place, on which he left the House, went to St. James's, and, as was supposed, told the King that he was unable to serve him longer. The King immediately afterwards went to the House of Peers, gave his assent to the Malt bill, and desired the House to adjourn until the 18th, on which day Walpole took his seat as Earl of Orford, after resigning all his employments.

The Prince certainly made himself very popular by those arrangements; and he confirmed that

popularity further by the great encouragement which, about this period, he gave to British manufactures; he and the Princess discouraging the wear of foreign goods in their own family and household.

The new ministry principally consisted of the Prince's friends; and when his Royal Highness waited on the King, attended by the heads of the preceding Opposition, he was received most graciously, the King, of his own free will, ordering his guards to be restored.

Thus did Opposition succeed in driving the minister from the station which he had so long held; but soon after schisms broke out among themselves, through the jealousy of each other's designs, and the ambition manifested by all to gain the ascendancy; which made the old Duke of Argyle say sarcastically to Pulteney, "that a grain of honesty was worth a cart-load of gold."

The violence, with which Mr. Pitt had attacked Sir Robert Walpole, rendered that gentleman very obnoxious to his Majesty, who, whatever his failings might be, was certainly not deficient in gratitude to those who served him faithfully. At length, when a change of ministers became inevitable, the King, who had little objection to the principal characters of the new cabinet, all at once resisted the appointment of Mr. Pitt, with an obstinacy which indicated personal dislike.

But it was impossible for the rest of the party to come into power without him, and the Monarch was obliged, at last, reluctantly to submit; this, however, he did with such an ill grace, that when Pitt appeared in the drawing-room, to kiss hands on his appointment, the King turned aside, and shed tears.

That Walpole's mode of administration was certainly corrupt, we are afraid, cannot be controverted; a fact too which he himself never denied, bearing the jokes of his friends upon that subject with great good humour.

Having at a dinner-party repeated a line from Horace containing the word "Bibisti," "Pray, Sir Robert," says one of his friends, "is that good Latin?"—"Why, I think so—what objection have you to it?" "Why," says the other drily, "I did not know but the word might be *bribe*-isti in your Horace."

He often used to complain, that when the most barking whelps of Opposition were converted into his service, they sunk at once into languor and inactivity. He used to say, (and no man knew better than himself) that attack and defence were very different branches of service. "Common strength may pull down a wall, but the skill of a workman is absolutely necessary to rebuild it."

Opinions were held in his time, that the anniversary of the 30th of January should be abolished

as a day of public fast and observance. Talking privately on this subject, one day, to a member of Opposition, he said, "I am not so anxious to see this fast inserted in the calendar as a season of religious penitence, but, I think, *you* must allow that it should stand as a day of great political example."

When Sir Robert had any material point to carry in the House, he used to ask some of the neutral members, along with a party of his staunch friends, to sup with him the preceding evening, when he seized the opportunity of using his most forcible, and often weightiest, arguments in producing converts. Amongst other recorded anecdotes, the following is as striking an instance of profound policy as perhaps stands upon record in the annals of any nation. Having some points to carry in which the bishops were interested, he expected powerful opposition from that quarter. The Archbishop of Canterbury was indebted to him entirely for his exaltation; and as he had often made the warmest protestations of gratitude, Sir Robert now resolved to put him to the test.—Accordingly he sent for him a few days before he intended to bring his bill into the House, and told him he had a favour to request: the prelate replied, "he need only ask, to obtain any thing in his power to grant." Sir Robert then desired that he would closely confine himself to his palace on

a particular day, and give him leave to assign what reason he thought proper for such a proceeding. The archbishop promised to observe his patron's injunctions faithfully; and this profound politician, on the day of his confinement, caused a report to be circulated that his Grace of Canterbury was suddenly taken ill, and even lay at the point of death. He introduced his bill, and as each of the bench, from their expectation of preferment, wished to please him, and were absent, the bill passed without much difficulty; at least so said scandalous report.

1743—1744.

The war having now extended to the continent, the King, anxious for the safety of Hanover, put himself at the head of his troops, where, on many occasions, he manifested generalship as well as personal courage; passing his summers in the field, and his winters in the British capital.

At the battle of Dettingen he rode on a very unruly horse, which, at one period, ran away with him to a considerable distance, until ensign Trapaud, afterwards general, seized the bridle, when the King dismounted, exclaiming, "Now that I am on my legs, I am sure that I shall not run away." At the same battle, the gens d'armes, the flower of the French army, made a desperate charge on the British line opposed to them, and

were repulsed. In their retreat they were attacked by the Scotch Greys, and pushed into the River. During the charge of these cuirassiers, their point of attack was a Scottish regiment of infantry, commanded by Sir Andrew Agnew, who, judging it impossible to oppose them by force, had recourse to stratagem; ordering his men to fall back from centre, by right and left, as they advanced, and then to bayonet their horses as soon as they should fairly enter the opening, when they might kill the riders at their leisure. The French, seeing the line broken, dashed in, but soon found their mistake, when the remainder retired, and were charged as above stated. After the action, the King said, "Sir Andrew, the gens d'armes got in amongst you to day!" "Yes, please your Majesty," said the brave Caledonian, "but they didna get oot again!"—Some years after, at a review of the Scotch Greys, his Majesty, after applauding their appearance, turned to the French ambassador, and asked him his opinion of the regiment, adding, in his exulting manner, that they were the best troops in the world. The ambassador replied, "Has your Majesty never seen the gens d'armes?" "No," rejoined the King, "but my Greys have."

The good-humoured forbearance of this Monarch was exemplified in the well-known anecdote of

his adventure with a sordid innkeeper, between the Brill and Helvoetsluys, when his carriage broke down on his return to England, through Holland, from his German dominions. No shelter was near but an obscure public-house, where he was forced to stop, whilst some of the royal retinue went forward to procure another carriage, the King solacing himself with what refreshment the house afforded, and which consisted merely of a pot of coffee for himself and Lord Delawar, and four bottles of Dutch snaps for the footmen. The bill being called for, the greedy Dutchman, who was aware of the rank of his guest, presented a most extraordinary charge, amounting to something near 100*l.* sterling. Lord Delawar then inquired if coffee and gin were so rare in that country. "No," replied the fellow, "but kings are!" His Majesty laughed at the Dutchman's wit, acknowledged that he was a rogue, but said, "Pay him; kings seldom come this way."

During the war of 1743, a victory gained over the French was celebrated not only by public rejoicings, but by an ode set to music, which was repeated frequently before the King, in the great council chamber at St. James's. On these occasions his Majesty always appeared in the hat, coat, sword, and scarf, which he wore at the battle of Oudenarde in 1708, when he fought under the orders of the Duke of Marlborough. But

as the fashion had often changed during the space of forty years, it was difficult to refrain from laughing at the singular figure which the King cut at these times, when he walked about the circle in such antiquated habiliments. On one of these days the following couplet was repeated in full chorus :

> "Sure such a day was never known,
> Such a king! and such a throne!"

This at once directed the attention of the audience to the Monarch, and set the whole circle in such a humour, as might have created some unpleasant confusion, if one of the lords had not, by a timely presence of mind, begun to clap the couplet, which hint was taken by the rest of the company; and the applause became so general, that the good old man, instead of taking offence, was flattered with the compliment.

At this period, the young Prince, though scarcely six years old, displayed such abilities, that he was taken from the nursery, and placed solely under the care of his first tutor, Dr. Francis Ayscough, afterwards Bishop of Bristol, and who was, perhaps, in some measure indebted for his selection to this high office, to the interest of Lord Lyttelton, whose sister he married. But, independent of this, the worthy Doctor appears, by his modesty and candour, to have been well qualified

for his duty, as is exemplified in a letter to the learned and pious Dr. Doddridge, written in 1744, where he says, "I thank God I have one great encouragement to quicken me in my duty, which is the good disposition of the children entrusted to me; as an instance, I must tell you, that Prince George (to his honour and my shame) had learnt several pages in your book of verses, without any direction from me."

It certainly manifested a liberal and tolerant spirit in Dr. Ayscough, to place in the hands of the future Monarch of England, the productions of the master of a dissenting academy; of which it may be said, that neither the tutor, the King, the church, the nation, nor the world, will ever have cause to regret the circumstance. That the church of England has every reason to acquiesce in this, and that all sects have reason to rejoice in it, require no proof. Its effects have long been self-evident; for never did a more generous, a more scriptural, or a more protestant principle ever escape the lips of any one than of this child, when he became a King, when he expressed a wish that every subject in his realm might read the Bible. Perhaps those lines, which he had committed to his memory when a child, laid the foundation of that uniform zeal which he discovered for the universal distribution of the Holy Scriptures, and the education of all persons

in the principles of Christianity. Indeed, his Royal Parents seem always to have been anxious to associate as much as possible in their family way with all the dignitaries of the clergy, which may have had a powerful effect upon the mind of the young heir-presumptive, in leading him to have a personal regard for the dignified servants of the church.

Amongst other anecdotes of those mitred visitors, one is told of Dr. Thomas, bishop of Salisbury, who, holding his visitation in Buckinghamshire, and confirming the young gentlemen at Eton, received an invitation from the Prince and Princess of Wales to dine with them at Cliefden; when he said that nothing was ever more pleasing than their ease and condescension. They dined quite in a family way, and after dinner the children were called in to the dessert, and were made to repeat several beautiful passages out of plays and poems; and, upon the whole, he never passed a more agreeable day in all his life. This was reported to the King, with a view to prejudice him in the King's opinion, for his familiarity with the Prince. "What had he to do at Cliefden?" said the King; "What brought him into those parts?" When it was answered that he was there upon his visitation, "Oh," said the King, "I find it was no private affair, as he was there in a public capacity; if he had failed in proper respect to

any part of my family, I should have had reason to be angry indeed."

Of Dr. Ayscough's residence at Cliefden, as tutor, the following anecdote has been preserved by Mr. Nichols, in his Literary Anecdotes, where it is stated that the Prince of Wales brought Dr. Ayscough with him on a morning visit to Eton from Cliefden, whilst the royal pupils were left studying a Greek lesson until their preceptor's return. The visit to Eton was intended for Dr. George, who happened at that moment to be engaged in the Homer lesson with his scholars; and as the Prince could not wait his return to chambers, he and the doctor amused themselves by peeping through certain apertures in the great doors of the school, where the attitudes, action, and manner of the Eton master could be observed with ease. The knowledge of this visit having come to the ears of Dr. George, and that day being a half-holiday, he determined instantly to return the visit, and accordingly set off for Cliefden, when the Prince expressed his regret that the Doctor had not arrived half an hour sooner, when he would have been excessively diverted, as himself had been, in seeing Ayscough take him off so exactly in the Greek lesson with the young Princes; but George did not see matters in that very amusing light, and accordingly he took himself off with all decent rapidity, without waiting for Ayscough's

return with the Princes from the garden, having no inclination for a repetition of the joke.

1745.

It is irrelevant to our subject to enter into any details of the rebellion in 1745, further than to notice that the King was much annoyed by the conduct of the Newcastle ministry, who, soon after the battle of Culloden, being dissatisfied with his Majesty for checking their power, determined to resign, endangering the nation by distracted counsels, for the purpose of distressing their Monarch. The King however displayed great energy upon this occasion, and instantly gave both the seals to Lord Granville, till affairs could be settled; but immediately afterwards, he found himself obliged to submit, and to grant his dutiful servants what they demanded.

While this unpleasant business was going on, Earl Granville was with his Majesty one evening, and the conversation turning upon the resignations, the King expressed his regret at being told that the Duke of Grafton, who was rather a favourite, intended to throw up his place the next morning. "That," said the Earl, "may be very easily prevented." "As how?" replied the King quickly. "Why," said his Lordship, "by your Majesty's turning him out this night."

Though obliged to receive back his Ministers,

the King did not choose to trust to them, as he exemplified on one occasion, when the cabinet assembled to take proper measures for the security of the kingdom. While they were sitting, the King entered the council chamber, and requested to know what was the subject of their deliberations; and on being told that they were consulting how to provide for the safety of his Majesty's person and government, "Aye, is it so?" replied the Monarch, laying his hand upon the hilt of his sword, "my Lords and Gentlemen, take care of yourselves; but for me, it is my resolution to live and die King of England."

It has been said, upon good authority, that the Pretender* actually was in London previous to

* The following character and description of the Pretender and his brother, are said to have been drawn up by an eminent legal peer, long since deceased, at the particular request of the Princess Dowager, whose curiosity on this subject had been highly excited by the dangers which threatened her family.

"Charles Edward, the eldest son of the Chevalier de St. George, is tall above the common stature: his limbs are cast in the most exact mould; his complexion has in it something of an uncommon delicacy; all his features are perfectly regular and well-turned, and his eyes the finest I ever saw. But that which shines most in him, and renders him without exception the most surprisingly handsome person of the age, is the dignity that accompanies his every gesture. There is indeed such an unspeakable majesty diffused through his whole mien and air, as it is impossible to have any idea of without seeing;

the rebellion breaking out, when he saw many of his principal friends, and concerted measures with them for his further proceedings. The advice which they gave him was that he should march direct to London before a force could be collected to oppose him. They assured him that many would rise in his favour; but he seems to have been doubtful of the general good reception; at least he was dissuaded from the daring plan, on his return to Carlisle, where he adopted a line of

and strikes those that do with such an awe as will not suffer them to look upon him for any time, unless he emboldens them to it by his excessive affability.

"Thus much, Madam, as to the person of the Prince. His mind (by all I can judge of it) is no less worthy of admiration. He seems to me, and (I find) to all that know him, to have all the good-nature of the Stuart family blended with the spirit of the Sobieskis. He is, at least as far as I am capable of seeing into men, equally qualified to preside in peace and war. As for his learning, it is extensive beyond what could be expected from double the number of his years. He speaks most of the European languages with the same ease and fluency, as if each of them was the only one he knew;—is a perfect master of all the different kinds of Latin;—understands Greek well, and is not altogether ignorant of the Hebrew. History and philosophy are his darling entertainments, in both which he is well versed: the one, he says, will instruct him how to govern others, and the other how to govern himself, whether in prosperous or adverse fortune. Then, for his courage—that was sufficiently proved at the siege of Gaieta, when, though scarce arrived at the age of fifteen, he performed such things, as

operation which led to the total failure of his project.

When the Guards returned from Germany (where they behaved with great gallantry), fresh troops were necessary to be sent against the rebels; and the King, though he always respected and depended upon the Guards, had a delicacy in

in attempting made his friends and enemies alike tremble, though from different motives. What he is ordained for, we must leave to the Almighty, who disposes all! but he appears to be born and endowed for something very extraordinary.

Henry Benedict, the second son, has also a very fine person, though of a stature somewhat lower than his brother, and his complexion not altogether so delicate; he is, however, extremely well made, has a certain agreeable robustness in his mien, and a more than common sparkle in his eyes. Many of those perfections I have (though faintly) described as appertaining to the one, are equally the due of the other. It is hard indeed to say which of them has most applied himself to the branches of those kinds of learning which enable man to be useful to his fellow-creatures. The difference I make between their tempers is this: that the one has the agreeable mixture of the Stuart and Sobieski (as I have already said), and the other seems actuated more entirely by the spirit of the latter; all the fire of his great ancestors on that side, seems collected in him; and I dare believe that should his arm ever be employed in so warrantable a cause as that which warmed the breast of his glorious progenitor*, when 150,000 Turks owed their† defeat to the bravery

* King John of Poland.

† Siege of Vienna.

applying for their services so recently after their campaigns. He consulted a confidential general officer for advice, who gave it as his opinion, that he should call a military levee by way of experiment. The levee was accordingly announced, and all the officers attended, when the King, coming into the circle, thus addressed them :—

of a handful of Christians led on by him to victory, this warlike young Prince would have the same success. His martial spirit discovered itself when, being no more than nine years old, at the time his brother accompanied the young king of Naples to enforce possession of his dominions, he was so much discontented at being refused the partnership of that glory and that danger, that he would not put on his sword, till his father threatened to take away his garter too, saying, it did not become him to wear the one without the other.

"I am told, the parting between these young gentlemen and their father was very affecting, and drew tears from the eyes of most who were present at it. The Regent (as he was called) said, amongst other remarkable things, "I go, Sir, in search of three crowns, which I doubt not but to have the honour and happiness of laying at your Majesty's feet: if I fail in the attempt, your next sight of me shall be in my coffin." At these words the Chevalier became unable to preserve that moderation he had assumed on so trying an occasion: the grief his heart was big with, in spite of his endeavours, discovered itself in his countenance, and he burst into this exclamation—"Heaven forbid that all the crowns in the world should rob me of my son!" Then tenderly embracing him, "Be careful of yourself, my dear Prince, (added he) for my sake and I hope for the sake of millions."

"Gentlemen,

"You cannot be ignorant of the present precarious situation of our country, and, though I have had such recent instances of your exertions, the necessity of the times and the knowledge I have of your hearts induce me to demand your services again; so that all of you that are willing to meet the Rebels, hold up your right hands; all those who may, from particular reasons, feel it an inconvenience, hold up your left."

On the instant all the right hands in the room were up, which so affected the King, that, in attempting to thank them, he shed tears, and retired.

The Guards next morning marched to Finchley; and were accompanied with the prayers, the acclamations, and the bounties of the public.

When Hogarth, some years afterwards, made a sketch of this march to Finchley, it was shewn to the King, who did not seem pleased with the idea, and said, he would not have his brave soldiers turned into ridicule. Hogarth, who had, previously to this, meant to dedicate it to the King, took the hint, and dedicated it to the late King of Prussia.

That George II. was not an illiberal Prince is evident from an occurrence connected with these events; for he was considerably affected on hearing of the fate of a poor Highlander, named Mac

Jan, who had been the first guide and protector of the young Pretender after the battle of Culloden, and had remained firm to his trust, despising alike the personal danger incurred by himself, and the temptation of the offered reward, 30,000*l.* This faithful fellow, a very short time afterwards, was convicted of stealing a cow, to which he was driven by the distress of his family, and executed for that offence at Inverness; but no sooner did the circumstance reach the ears of the Brunswick Monarch, than he declared, that if he had sooner been acquainted with the merits of the case, he would have placed Mac Jan in a situation in which he would have been above such temptation, and unexposed to such necessity—a transaction that would have been alike honourable to the Monarch and the man.

We may also add, that when desired to sign the death-warrant for Dr. Cameron, he said, in the true spirit of mercy which has ever distinguished his illustrious family, "Surely there has been too much blood already spent upon this occasion."

The King's politeness at this period was particularly manifested in a little anecdote of a Mr. Thornton, a gentleman of large Yorkshire estates, and member of parliament, who was extremely active during the whole of the commotion, having also raised a corps of volunteers, called the Yorkshire Hussars, by his own personal influence and

expense. His lady was considered as one of the finest women in the kingdom; and when she was sometime afterwards presented at court, his Majesty received her in the most gracious manner, observing to Mr. Thornton, "Sir, I had always a very high opinion of your services, but I never knew till now how much I was beholden to you."

The events of this time shew also, that although the King was no particular patron of literature, yet he did not disdain to employ it for political purposes; as it is well known, that not only was Dr. Webster engaged by Earl Gower to write a pamphlet against the Jacobites, but Lord Gower corrected the proof sheets, *and his Majesty read them for press.*

His patience, doubtless, would have been as much annoyed by the foul proofs, as it seems to have been by long sermons, as evinced by the following anecdote of Dr. Newton, on whose being appointed sub-almoner, his great friend, Archbishop Gilbert, informed him that among other things the King had said, that though he had no reason to find fault with the length of Dr. Newton's sermons, yet, as he would now preach oftener before him, he must desire that he would be particularly short, especially on the great festivals: for he was an old man, and if the sermon was long he was in danger of falling asleep and catching cold, and it would fatigue him too much, especially on

those days when he was afterwards to come down into the chapel to receive the sacrament. The doctor says that he had before taken care in his sermons at court to come within the compass of twenty minutes, but that after this, especially on the great festivals, he never exceeded fifteen; so that the King sometimes said to the clerk of the closet, "A short good sermon!"

The King indeed seems to have had no greater predilection for long accounts, as appears from a well authenticated financial anecdote:—

During the administration of the Duke of Newcastle, many and heavy were the complaints with respect to the delay in settling public accounts; and severe remonstrances were perpetually published on the injury done to individuals, as well as to the national interests, by the want of regularity and despatch in the public offices. These things at length came to the knowledge of the King, who called the prime minister to a reckoning in no very gentle language; telling him at the same time, that, for the purpose of seeing where the fault lay, and to satisfy the minds of the people, he would inspect the accounts himself.—"Is your Majesty in earnest?" said the Duke; and on being told that such was his intention, he bowed, and promised to send the papers. The next morning the King heard an uncommon bustle in the court-yard of the palace, and, on going to

the window, observed a cart loaded with large bundles of paper, tied up with red tape. This unusual spectacle excited his curiosity; and on being told that these were public accounts, sent for his Majesty's perusal by the Duke of Newcastle, he ordered his grace to be called. When the minister appeared in the royal presence, the King in a passion asked what he meant by insulting him with a waggon-load of books and papers at the door of his palace? "May it please your Majesty," said the duke, "I understood that it was your wish to examine the documents with your own eyes, and there was no other way of doing so but by this mode of conveyance, and, besides this, there is another cart-load on the road."—"The devil there is!" replied the King; "then you may go and make a bonfire of the whole for me. I would as soon be made a galley-slave as venture to look over any part of the heap; so take away the cargo that is already here, countermand the other, and let me hear no more complaints."

We have already noticed the fact, that those who had most ostentatiously called themselves the "King's friends," took care to repay themselves by a marked personal opposition to the King in the cabinet; and we may add further, that his Majesty took an opportunity of complaining to Lord Bath of the uneasiness of his situation; that he

was held under the dominion of an aristocracy; that they hemmed him in on all sides, and he could not have those about him whom he liked; that they in a manner engrossed all power, and in effect he could do little or nothing. He therefore asked Lord Bath, whether he could not give him some assistance—whether he could not in any way extricate him from his present difficulties; and, if he possibly could, conjured him by all means to break the combination, and to set him at liberty. Lord Bath replied, that it would be burning his own fingers, but however, to oblige his Majesty, he would try what could be done;—it was possible he might be able to succeed, but his success must in a great measure depend upon his Majesty himself; who must be sure to stand steady, and be true to his own interest, otherwise, as the attempt was hazardous, it would also prove vain and ineffectual. One of the first steps he took, was to send for Gideon and the monied men, to know whether they would confirm the agreement which they had made with Mr. Pelham for raising the supplies of the current year. They readily answered, that they would abide by their bargain with Mr. Pelham, for they had not made it for his sake only. But Lord Bath convinced them that in one article they had exacted more from Mr. Pelham than they should have done, and therefore insisted upon an abate-

ment; to which, after some debate, they consented. At the same time Earl Granville, who was a greater personal favourite with the King than any of the ministers, was declared secretary of state, and the Earl of Carlisle was sent for to be the lord privy seal. The ministers soon took the alarm, and had a meeting all together at Lord Harrington's, where they agreed upon the measures they would pursue; and the next day they all went to court, and one after another resigned their respective places. Such was their fidelity to their old master when a rebellion was still raging in the midst of the kingdom—they would rather all desert him in the hour of distress and danger, than any of them should be deprived of the profits of their places. This was more than the King had expected: he was by no means prepared for such an event; he was, with all his courage, really intimidated by so many resignations, and may be said in a manner to have resigned himself; for his whole scheme was suddenly disconcerted, Lord Granville was dismissed within a few days, and the old ministers were all restored to their places with fuller power than before. The King was as much chagrined and vexed, as he was provoked and angry, at his disappointment; and begged and intreated of Lord Bath to avenge his cause, by writing a full account of the whole transaction. Gne of his expressions was, "Rub it in their noses,

and, if it be possible, make them ashamed." An account was accordingly drawn up, which received the royal approbation; but the manuscript is supposed to have been burnt accidentally, with other papers, by the noble author.

1748.

The peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, in 1748, gave some repose to the nation, who were now beginning to taste some internal tranquillity from the increasing unpopularity of the expatriated family, and the turn of public favour towards the Brunswick dynasty, not only from the personal gallantry of the Monarch, but also the praiseworthy conduct of the heir apparent.

The Prince and Princess of Wales appeared still to court public notice and popularity; and indeed the general tendency of their pursuits, and their affability, could not fail of success. This year they paid a visit to Sir Hans Sloane, to see his curious collection of natural history, medals, &c. which formed the basis of our present British Museum, and they did honour to science by their behaviour upon this occasion. Dr. Mortimer, as secretary to the Royal Society, conducted them into the apartment where Sir Hans was sitting, he being then both aged and infirm, when the Prince took a chair, and sat down by the good old gentleman for some time, expressing the great esteem and

value he had for him personally, and how much the learned world was obliged to him for his immense and multifarious collections. The royal party then proceeded to examine the curiosities of various kinds, spread upon three large tables, and removed like the courses at a great dinner, until every thing curious had been seen: during all which time the Prince manifested considerable knowledge upon every subject, especially the medals, on which he made many judicious remarks; expressly observing, in reference to the proposed parliamentary purchase, how much it must conduce to the benefit of learning, and how great an honour would redound to Britain to have it established for public use to the latest posterity.

A few months after this, on the birth-day of the Princess, the 19th of November, there was a very splendid appearance of nobility and gentry at Leicester House; when the Prince, observing that some of the lords wore French stuffs, immediately directed the Duke of Chandos, as groom of the stole, to acquaint them, and all his servants in general, that after that day he should be greatly displeased to see them appear in any French manufactures. The same notice was given to the ladies.

This was judicious; and it is not irrelevant here to record, that in the reign of Charles II. both

houses of parliament actually addressed his Majesty, in 1668, to give the like orders, passing resolutions themselves to set the example. It is gratifying to reflect, that the same has been practised of late; and it were to be wished that it may become universal.

The Prince's family now became a favourite topic of conversation; and Walpole records an anecdote of the young Prince's proficiency and ready wit, when the King, previous to setting off for the continent, sent Baron Stainberg to examine his royal grandchildren with respect to their education. The Baron told Prince George that he should inform the King what great proficiency he had made in his Latin, but that he wished his Royal Highness was a little more perfect in his German grammar, and that it would be of signal use to him; when "the child squinted at him, and said, German grammar! why, any dull child can learn that!" Soon afterwards, when the Prince was to receive the garter, the Prince of Wales carried him to the door of the royal closet, and the Duke of Dorset led him to his grandfather's presence. Some of the Carlton House court had taught him a set speech, which the Prince began to repeat, but the King cried out, "No, no!" When the boy, says Walpole, had a little recovered of his fright, he began again; but the same tremendous sounds were heard, and the oration fell still-born.

In addition to his classical studies, the Prince began now to be initiated in the more ornamental parts of education, and Goupy was engaged as his drawing-master, an ingenious artist, at that period in great favour with the Prince of Wales, and frequently attending him at Leicester-house to draw such designs as his Royal Highness chose to point out. On arriving one morning, the Prince of Wales said, "Come, Goupy, sit down, and finish your design;" but the artist, observing Prince George standing as a prisoner behind his father's chair, took the liberty humbly to represent to his royal patron, how impossible it was to execute his commands with any spirit, whilst the Prince was standing, and under his royal displeasure. "Come out then, George," exclaimed the indulgent parent, "Goupy has released you!"

This little occurrence never was forgotten by his Majesty, who many years afterwards had the pleasure of repaying the good office in kind, when Goupy, then an old man of eighty-four, was living in great distress, increased by expense and anxiety in the support of a deranged female who had some claims upon his gratitude. Goupy then resided at Kensington; and one morning, running, as has been said, from the danger of actual arrest, in hopes of getting to town for seclusion and se-

curity, he had the good fortune to meet the royal coach, when the King instantly ordered his servants to stop, and called from the window, "How do you, Goupy?" At this salutation, the aged artist halted, though the bailiffs were in active pursuit; and when his Majesty inquired what were his means of support, "Little enough, indeed," answered he; "and as I once took your Majesty out of prison, I hope you will not now let me be put into one." The Monarch inquired the more particular meaning of this, when Goupy pointed to the bailiffs, who had thus come up with their chace. "Oh, ho!" said the King, "is it so? I cannot stop the law—the law must take its course; but Ramus shall settle the business, and I will take care to secure you from such dangers in future!"

Of the same nature is an anecdote of a Mr. Redman, a fencing-master by profession, who had taught the young Prince, as well as his father, the use of the small sword. The princely pupil never forgot him, but settled a pension upon him of 100*l.* per annum, which Redman was afterwards obliged to sell, from unavoidable misfortunes, becoming a prisoner in the King's Bench. This was about 1787, when Redman was in his 85th year: but no sooner did his royal pupil hear of it than he paid off the old man's debts from the

privy purse, and appointed him a Poor Knight of Windsor, in order that he might pass the winter of life in ease and comfort.

1749.

Lord North, father of the subsequent premier, was now thought of by the Prince of Wales as a governor for his eldest son, then in his eleventh year, and so far introduced into public life as to be present at the family parties at Kew or Cliefden, and to accompany his royal parents in the various excursions they took in the vicinity of their country residences.

To accustom the young Princes to oratory, private theatricals had been some time in preparation at Leicester-house, and the tragedy of Cato was got ready for rehearsal on the last day of 1748. The final representation took place on the 4th of January, 1749, when as many of the young Princes and Princesses as were old enough, together with several youths of quality, made their debut before a numerous assembly of rank and fashion, and were received with great applause.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

PORTIUS .....Prince GEORGE.
JUBA .....Prince EDWARD.
CATO.....Master Nugent.
SEMPRONIUS .....Master Evelyn.
LUCIUS .....Master Montague.

DECIUS .....Lord Milsington.
SYPHAX .....Lord North's Son.
MARCUS .....Master Madden.
MARCIA.....Princess AUGUSTA.
LUCIA .....Princess ELIZABETH.

The prologue was recited by Prince George:—

"To speak with freedom, dignity, and ease,
To learn those arts, which may hereafter please,
Wise authors say—let youth, in earliest age,
Rehearse the poet's labours on the stage.
Nay more! a nobler end is still behind,
The poet's labours elevate the mind;
Teach our young hearts with gen'rous fire to burn,
And feel the virtuous sentiments we learn.
T' attain these glorious ends, what play so fit,
As that where all the powers of human wit
Combine to dignify great Cato's name,
To deck his tomb, and consecrate his fame?
Where Liberty—Oh name for ever dear!
Breathes forth in every line, and bids us fear
Nor pain nor death, to guard our sacred laws,
But bravely perish in our country's cause.
Patriots indeed! nor why that honest name,
Through every time and station still the same,
Should this superior to my years be thought,
Know, 'tis the first great lesson I was taught.
What, though a boy! it may with pride be said,
A boy in England born, in England bred;
Where freedom well becomes the earliest state,
For there the love of liberty 's innate.
Yet more—before my eyes those heroes stand
Whom the great William brought to bless this land,

To guard with pious care that gen'rous plan,
Of power well bounded, which he first began.
But while my great forefathers fire my mind,
The friends, the joy, the glory of mankind;
Can I forget that there is one more dear?
But he is present—and I must forbear."

The epilogue was spoken by the Princess Augusta and Prince Edward alternately, but does not possess sufficient interest to justify insertion.

On this occasion the instruction of the young candidates for histrionic fame, and the arrangement of the rehearsals, were entrusted to the celebrated Quin, who was also employed in assisting to get up Lady Jane Grey, preparatory to which exhibition that tragedy was revived at Covent-Garden in the ensuing winter, but the royal performance did not take place. Quin, however, did not go unrewarded: he was not only gratified with a pension, but felt also proud of the distinction conferred upon him—a proof of which he gave many years afterwards on hearing of the graceful manner in which his pupil delivered the first speech from the throne, crying out, "Aye! 'twas I that taught the boy to speak!"

From the moment of Quin's first introduction at Leicester-house, through the recommendation of Lord Lyttelton and the Poet of the Seasons, he always met with the warmest patronage from the Prince of Wales, who attended his annual benefits,

and seldom commanded a play except at Covent-Garden; a patronage which actually raised Quin's theatrical salary to 1000*l.* per annum.

In the ensuing May, the Prince was brought forward to public notice by his giving a silver cup, worth 25 guineas, to be rowed for by seven pair of oars, on his birth-day (O.S.) the 25th, he then entering his twelfth year. After the usual compliments of ceremony at Leicester-house, the Prince and Princess of Wales, with a select party of nobility, were rowed in their barge a-head of the competitors, followed by Prince George and the young Princesses, in a magnificent new-built barge in the Venetian style, the watermen dressed in Chinese costume; which, with the number of galleys and pleasure boats attending, rowed by young gentlemen in neat uniforms, produced a most splendid and interesting appearance. The youthful donor was so well pleased with the entertainment of the day, that he announced another piece of plate for six or seven yachts or pleasure boats which should sail to the Nore and back again.

Two days afterwards the same royal party proceeded to the Foundling Hospital, accompanied by a great number of persons of quality and distinction, to hear a performance from the works of Handel, for the benefit of the institution. The tickets were half-a-guinea, and the receipts consi-

derable, together with 2000*l.* presented by the King, and the sum of 50*l.* from a person unknown.

1750.

The King went this summer to Hanover, and Prince George, though only twelve years of age, was permitted by him to be one of the sponsors for his young brother, Frederick William, who died in 1765; and soon after the Princess's recovery the usual system of whimsical amusement was resumed, as related by Lord Melcombe in his Diary.—"Lady Middlesex, Lord Bathurst, Mr. Breton, and I waited on their Royal Highnesses to Spitalfields, to see the manufactory of silk, and to Mr. Carr's shop in the morning. In the afternoon the same company, with Lady Torrington in waiting, went in private coaches to Norwood forest to see a settlement of gypsies. We returned and went to Bettesworth, the conjuror, in hackney-coaches—not finding him, we went in search of the little Dutchman, but were disappointed; and concluded the particularities of the day by supping with Mrs. Cannon, the Princess's midwife."

On the 28th of June the Prince and Princess of Wales, in pursuance of their plan of making the heir presumptive acquainted with all the useful details of common life, took him and the Princess Augusta with them on a visit to Spitalfields, where

they examined several manufactories, expressing great satisfaction at the fine and curious display in the various looms, and declaring their fixed intention of encouraging British manufactures in preference to those of foreign countries.

The same course was pursued on a subsequent visit in July to the manufactories of Gloucestershire, whilst at Lord Bathurst's seat, near Cirencester; when they were presented with addresses from the incorporated companies of weavers, and also of the woolcombers of that town, to which they returned the most favourable and encouraging answers.

On the 12th of July an installation took place at Windsor, when Prince George became a knight of the Garter by proxy, being represented by the Earl of Inchiquin.

On the 1st of August ensuing, the anniversary of the Brunswick accession, the sailing-match took place from Greenwich to the Nore, for the promised cup, but which, on this occasion, was called the Prince of Wales's. This regatta passed off with great applause.

On the 30th of September Lord Bute was fixed at Leicester-house, he on that day kissing hands as a lord of the bedchamber. Colonel Robinson was also appointed an equerry; he, as well as Lord North, remaining under the title of servant to the Prince, but both to attend the Princes

George and Edward, as governor and equerry. With respect to this affair the following anecdote is related very ambiguously by Mr. Seward, but with some appearance of probability. "Of the rise of a great favourite in this country (Lord Bute), this account has been given. He resided in the vicinity of Richmond, and had an apothecary for his neighbour, who kept a chariot. The apothecary, intending to go to see a cricket-match, proposed to take his neighbour with him in his carriage. This kind offer was accepted, and they went together to the ground. It beginning, however, to rain whilst they were there, the great personage at whose command the cricket-match was played took to his tent, and wished very much to play at whist until the weather should become fair. There was no small embarrassment to find a fourth; at last, somebody spying his lordship in the apothecary's carriage, asked him if he would have the honour of filling up the Prince's party. To this he consented, and so pleased the august personage by his conversation and manners, that he desired him to come and see him at Kew.

"How often do great events arise from trifling causes!" exclaims Mr. Seward. "An apothecary keeping his carriage may have occasioned the peace of Paris, the American war, and the national assembly in France!"

The Pretender came again this year to London,

accompanied by Colonel Brett, in the month of September. He landed at the Tower, the outside of which he examined, and observed that it would be easy to force the gate with a petard. He took up lodgings in Pall Mall, and was surrounded by upwards of fifty of his partizans, but with little hopes of success from any attempt; as he afterwards declared that if 4000 men could have been raised, he would have put himself at their head.

It is said, on good authority, that the fact of the Pretender's visit to London was actually known at the time to the King himself, who first mentioned it to Lord Holdernesse, puzzling his lordship very much as to the advice he should give. But his Majesty perceived his embarrassment on being asked, "And what do you think, my lord, I should do with him?" immediately adding, "My lord, I shall just do nothing at all; and when he is tired of England he will go abroad again."

The source through which the King knew it, must have been a very injudicious visit of the Pretender himself to Lady Primrose, as believed, going to her house when she had a large evening card-party, and entering the room after being announced by a feigned name. The lady was so flurried, that she declared the cards had nearly fallen from her hand; but she still preserved suf-

ficient presence of mind to welcome him by his assumed name, and to ask some trifling questions, until the departure of the company permitted more private conversation. After he was gone, the servants remarked how much the strange gentleman resembled the picture over the fire-place.

Dr. King expressly states, that in the month of September he received a note from Lady Primrose, who desired to see him immediately; in consequence of which, he waited on her in her dressing-room, where he was introduced to the Pretender; but he says, that he staid only five days in London, as his plans were found to be very ill-advised. Amongst other risks of discovery which he run, was one whilst drinking tea with Dr. King at his lodgings; when the doctor's servant, after his departure, said that he thought the new visitor was very like Prince Charles. The doctor asked him if he had ever seen the Prince; to which the reply was, "No, sir; but this gentleman, whoever he may be, exactly resembles the busts which are sold in Red Lion Street, as busts of the Prince." The doctor says, that these busts were actually taken from a cast, in plaster of Paris, modelled on the Pretender's own face.

Dr. King adds, that the Pretender's tutor was a protestant; and that he himself, though a catholic with catholics, was a protestant with protestants;

and not only often carried an English prayer-book in his pocket, but also employed a nonjuring clergyman to baptize his illegitimate issue.

It is further asserted, that the Pretender's visit at this period was in direct opposition to the advice of his continental friends. His sole object was, according to his own declaration, once more to see the capital of that kingdom over which he considered himself born to reign. In addition to other alarms of discovery, he soon found it necessary to leave the kingdom; as, whilst walking one day in Hyde Park, he was met by a person who recognized him, and made an attempt to kneel to him as King of England. This alarmed him, and also the few friends who knew of his visit; so that a boat was instantly hired, in which he was carried over to France. It has been said that he had some knowledge of, and connexion with, a plot to seize George II. whilst returning from the theatre, and to carry him off to the continent. The plan was to engage a number of Irish chairmen, who were to attack the royal servants, to extinguish the lights, and excite confusion, whilst the conspirators performed their office. The plan was certainly not totally impracticable at that period; particularly from the usual unattended style of the King; but was very wisely abandoned.

The Prince of Wales, at this period, paid great attention to the education of the heir presumptive,

for whose use he employed Dr. Freeman to write the History of the English Tongue; he also patronized literature generally, so that when the Rambler first appeared in 1750, Johnson's name being then kept secret, his extreme delight in that work induced him to send two of his court to Cave, the publisher, in order to ascertain the author, that he might extend his protection to him.

Vertue, the engraver, was another object of his patronage. So high also was his character amongst the literary people of that day, that Lillo, when dying, particularly requested Gray the bookseller, to dedicate his posthumous tragedy of Elmeric to his Royal Highness.

Indeed, the little court of Leicester-house presented a curious contrast to the residence of monarchy. In the one was all the freedom of private life, all the festivity of wit, all the elegance of literature; in the other, little but the gloomy pomp of state and court etiquette.

Amongst the men of genius under the immediate patronage of the Prince, was Glover, the author of "Leonidas," who was always admitted upon the most familiar footing at the royal private parties. Having been for some time absent, the Prince took notice of it, asking some of the company if they knew the reason; when he was told that poor Glover had recently met with some se-

vere losses in trade, and it was supposed that his consequent difficulties had induced him to sequester himself from the courtly assemblage. The Prince expressed his deep regret, and afterwards taking an opportunity of speaking privately to the gentleman who gave him the information, presented him with a bank note of 500*l.* adding, "Carry this to Mr. Glover, as a small testimony of my esteem; and assure him from me, that I sincerely sympathize with him in his affliction, and shall be always glad to see him." This, however, is but an insulated instance of the Prince's goodness; it is now well known that numbers were indebted to his bounty.

The venerable Bishop Newton was also a frequent guest; and the description which he gives of his first introduction, will serve to illustrate the manners of that period. He observes, that Mrs. Anne Dennis Devonish, of a very good family in Dorsetshire, was first married to Mr. Rowe, the poet, by whom she was left in not abounding circumstances; was afterwards married to Colonel Dennis, by whom also she was left a widow; and, upon the family estate, which was a good one, coming to her by the death of a near relative, she resumed the family name of Devonish. He then describes her as a clever, sensible, agreeable woman, who had seen a great deal of the world, had kept the best company, and was distinguished by a happy mix-

ture of elegance and ease in every thing she said or did. She was honoured with the particular regard and friendship of the Prince and Princess of Wales, was often with them in their privacies and retirements; and as the Prince was then instructing his children to repeat fine moral speeches out of plays, and particularly out of Mr. Rowe's, which were the most chaste and moral, he desired her to have a more correct edition printed of Mr. Rowe's works, and recommended Mr. Mallet to her for that service. She rather chose to employ a friend of her own, and engaged Mr. Newton to undertake it, who supervised and corrected the proofs, and wrote the Dedication in her name to the Prince of Wales. By these means his name came first to be known to the Prince and Princess of Wales; and Mrs. Devonish, like a true friend, took every opportunity of commending him to them, and leaving a good impression of his character, which, long after, was of great service to him, and may be said to be the ground-work of his best preferment. Nor was this the only obligation which he owed to that lady; for she first introduced him to the acquaintance of Lord Bath, as well at to the knowledge of the Prince and Princess of Wales; and these two introductions he ever esteemed as two of the most fortunate circumstances, the most happy incidents, in all his life.

Convivial amidst his friends, the Prince would

even at times unbend whilst mixing with society in general, yet without descending to buffoonery, or admitting impertinent familiarity. Numerous anecdotes of this kind might be recounted.

His Royal Highness was also the patron of both art and science, as well as literature, especially of music, and its professors, but he did not disdain to enjoy a joke when a harmless one could be played off upon those who were most susceptible of raillery. On one occasion when Handel was to direct a new oratorio, at which the Prince and family were to be present, a practical wit in the Royal suite (aware that Handel's extreme dislike to hearing instruments tuned obliged the various performers to go through that necessary operation always before his appearance,) seized an opportunity of getting into the orchestra and deranging the whole of the instruments as they lay ready for the band. On the Prince's arrival, Handel, who was seated at the organ, gave the signal for commencement, when a grand crash ensued, to be equalled only by the harmony of Bartholomew Fair, and the enraged musician, forgetful of the royal presence, started up from his seat, overturned a double bass, and snatching up a small kettle drum, threw it at the head of the leader of the band, but luckily without any other consequences than the derangement of a very well powdered wig on his own head by the vio-

lence of his exertions: then rushing forward to the front, convulsed with rage, he stood for some minutes an object of the most ludicrous kind, the whole audience bursting into a fit of the loudest laughter; nor could he be restored to reason and quietness, until his Highness rose from his seat and actually applied himself personally to appease his wrath by stating the trick which had been played off upon him.

The Prince, attended by a party of young nobility, having gone to view the curiosities in the Tower, the old warder who conducted them through the several apartments, amongst a variety of breast-plates that are in the horse armoury, pointed to one, the lower edge of which had been carried away by a cannon ball, and with it, as the warder stated, part of the bowels and bottom of the abdomen of the wearer, notwithstanding which, being put under the care of a skilful surgeon, he recovered, and lived ten years afterwards.

The company smiled at the gravity with which the warder related this story, and the Prince with his wonted pleasantry replied, that he remembered to have read, somewhere in a book, a nearly similar circumstance of a soldier whose head was cleft in twain so dextrously by his antagonists, that one half lay on each shoulder, when one of his comrades, seeing his dangerous and inconvenient situation, placed the two parts

accurately together, bound them up with his handkerchief, and when the action was over, took part of a pot of ale with him at night, which the wounded but now cured man insisted upon his sharing with him. This cured the Warder!

On another occasion his Royal Highness honoured Pope with a visit, when the poet met him at the river side, and expressed his sense of the honour done to him in very courtly terms, joined to the most dutiful expressions of attachment. "'Tis well," said the Prince, smiling; "but how shall we reconcile your love to a prince, with your professed indisposition to kings, since princes will be kings in time?"—"Sir," replied Pope, "I consider royalty under that noble and authorized type of the lion; while he is young, and before his nails are grown, he may be approached and caressed with safety and pleasure."

1751.

On the 20th of March 1751, the Prince of Wales died, in the 45th year of his age, of a pleuritic disorder, in consequence of a cold which he caught in Kew gardens. A few days before his death he sent for his late Majesty and embraced him with great tenderness, uttering this remarkable expression: "Come, George, let us be good friends, whilst we are suffered to be so." It is deserving of praise, that although this prince had

a very large family, and kept a splendid court, yet his economy and regularity were surprising, and the private debts which he left behind him were found to be considerably less than was in general expected.

We may add, that he often repeated with pleasure the maxim, that a monarch's glory is inseparably connected with the glory and happiness of his people.

The immediate cause of the Prince's death was the breaking of an imposthume between the pericardium and diaphragm, the matter of which fell upon the lungs. This rupture arose from the cold caught in Kew Gardens, increased by leaving the House of Lords, whilst very warm, in a chair with the windows down. Even a few minutes before his death, he thought himself so well as to desire the physician, Dr. Wilmot, to go home; but the Princess remained with him to the last.

The Prince's death was indeed so very sudden, and so little expected at the moment, that it is said, Desnoyers, then a celebrated dancing-master, was actually playing on the violin by his bed-side, in order to amuse him. This man supported him in his last moments, and he expired in his arms. Frederick had been previously ill for some months, from an abscess formed in the thorax, in consequence of a blow from a cricket-ball during a match played at Cliefden, near Maidenhead-bridge.

No unpleasant result was at first feared from the shock; but the complaint soon manifested itself with considerable pain and suffering, and finally put an end to his existence by the bursting of the abscess, or imposthume, as already stated.

His sudden decease seems not to have been expected at court, for the King had sat down to play, and was engaged at cards, when a page, despatched from Leicester-house, arrived with intelligence that his Royal Highness had just expired. It is said, however, that the King received the announcement without manifesting either surprise or emotion; but rising up calmly, he crossed the apartment to the card-table of the Countess of Yarmouth, and leaning over her chair said to her in German, in a low tone of voice, "Freddy is dead!" when he withdrew into his closet. This calmness has been considered as want of feeling; but surely it may also be more liberally viewed as manly resignation. It is true that the family quarrel still remained; but the guarded conduct of kings must not always be tried by the rules of common life; besides, George II. had often faced death in the field, a circumstance which adds apparent stoicism to a man's habits, without even injuring his finer feelings.

According to Lord Melcombe's account, party entered even into the arrangements for the Prince's funeral. He says that on the 13th of April he

went at seven o'clock, according to the order, to the House of Lords, when the many slights that the poor remains of a much-loved master and friend had met with, and who was then preparing the last trouble he could give his enemies, sunk him so low, that for an hour he was incapable of making any observation.

The corpse had been removed the preceding evening to the Prince's chamber in the House of Lords, where the whole bed-chamber were ordered to attend from ten in the morning till the interment; but there was not the attention, says Lord Melcombe, to order the Green Cloth to provide them a bit of bread, and these gentlemen, of the first rank and distinction, in discharge of their last sad duty to a loved and loving master, were forced to bespeak a great cold dinner from a common tavern in the neighbourhood. At three o'clock indeed they vouchsafed to think of a dinner, and ordered one; but the disgrace was complete—the tavern dinner was paid for, and given to the poor.

When the procession began, with the exception of the lords appointed to hold the pall, and those of the Prince's household, there was not one English lord, not one bishop, and only one Irish peer (Limerick), two sons of dukes, one baron's son, and two privy councillors. The reason seems to be that no notice was given that any would be

admitted to walk in the procession until about seven hours before the funeral. There was not even a canopy from the House of Lords to the Abbey, and the funeral service was performed without either anthem or organ.*

* Upon this melancholy occasion, Doctor, afterwards Bishop Newton, preached a sermon at St. George's, Hanover-square, which he was desired by some of the noblemen and gentlemen of the vestry to publish; but he excused himself, as it was a hasty composition, unfit for the public eye. However, the report of it reached the ear of the Princess of Wales; and Lady Charlotte Edwin was employed by her Royal Highness to convey her desire that she might be favoured with a copy of the sermon to peruse it. Such a request could not be refused; but it was complied with, upon condition that after her Royal Highness, at her leisure, had perused the sermon, it should be returned; and Lady Charlotte most obligingly undertook to carry it and bring it again. The part in question, relating to the Prince of Wales, was as follows:—

"If ever there was an occasion that might justify an excess of grief, it is the death of our well-beloved Prince, with whom so many hopes—so many expectations are cut off, and blasted in their fullest bloom. It is the most fatal blow that this nation has felt for many many years; and the more we consider it, the more reason we find to lament it: indeed it is but justice to grieve,—it would be stupidity, or something worse, not to do it. We cannot surely help grieving for his widowed consort, whose loss is unspeakable as it is irreparable; the loss not only of greatness, but what is more, of happiness: for I believe there scarcely ever was, in private life, a greater instance of conjugal affection and domestic felicity: and every humane heart must bleed to see such virtue in such distress, and the more, on account of her present tender condition. Who like-

The intercourse between the King and the young Prince became now more frequent. On Sunday the 2d of June, the Prince of Wales and

wise can think of so many fine children left without a father, and not bewail their loss?—for as he was the most affectionate of husbands, so he was the most indulgent of parents: and his care and inspection and authority were now wanted more and more, to form their minds and manners. Such a calamity in any private family would be very affecting; but it must needs affect us much more sensibly, as they are the children of the public, and the hopes of the rising generation. His servants, too, have lost a most kind and gracious master, whom they not only honoured but loved, and served out of affection as much as duty; for he was a friend—a father, as it were, to all his family: and it is a grievous misfortune, not only to be deprived of present comforts, but also to be defeated of future expectations. Besides the distress which this heavy stroke has brought upon individuals, upon private persons, and private families, it is impossible to think without horror of the infinite loss to the public. Religion hath lost a defender,—liberty hath lost a guardian,—trade hath lost a protector,—the arts have lost a patron,—all mankind have lost a friend: for never was there in a person of such eminence more humanity and condescension to the lowest, more pleasing courtesy and engaging address to the highest, more beneficence to all within his sphere, or more benevolence to all without it. We might have rested under his shadow, whenever God, for our sins, should have deprived us of his Majesty's mild and gracious government; but now we have a dark and gloomy prospect before us: minorities have always been unhappy to this kingdom; and as it is our duty at all times to pray "for kings, and for all that are in authority," we should now, more ardently than ever, pray for the life of our most excellent Sovereign, that God would confirm his

Prince Edward went, for the first time in their equipages, to Kensington; the footmen of his Royal Highness in the livery of the late Prince;

health, prolong his days, direct his counsels, unite his friends, and defeat the designs of his enemies, that so this fatal loss may in some measure be repaired to us; that we and our children, and our children's children, may continue to enjoy our religion and liberties under his and his Royal Family's auspices, till time shall be no more."

The sermon was detained about a week; and then Lady Charlotte Edwin was again commissioned by her Royal Highness to restore it, with her thanks; and, at the same time, with her desire that she might appoint the author one of her chaplains; and the warrant was made out accordingly, and sent him: and ever afterwards, both privately in his times of waiting, and publicly in her drawing-room, she was particularly gracious to him.

The following anecdotes were inserted in a letter from an ingenious French gentleman, at that time residing in England, to his friend abroad:—

"Dear Friend,

"I have a thousand things to say to you; but, penetrated as I am by the fatal loss which we have experienced, I can entertain you with no other subject. Besides, I know that you interest yourself in the fate of all great men, of what nation soever they may be, which assures me that you will sympathize with us in the grief which the death of the Prince of Wales has occasioned; the circumstances of which I cannot enter into. Paleness and melancholy sit on the faces of all that we meet in the streets of this great metropolis, and those who had the honour of attending the Prince, are like persons distracted; even those who have only seen him at a distance cannot mention his name without the tribute of a tear.

and those of Prince Edward in crimson, turned up with green.

The Princes attended his Majesty to chapel; a

"The Prince had long reigned in the hearts of his people, which, indeed, he deserved, as he had nothing of that haughtiness which is too often the characteristic of persons of his rank: nothing was more easy than to have access to his presence, and he was always ready to hear complaints, or to receive petitions. He was an affectionate husband, a tender father, being never so happy as when he was surrounded by his numerous and charming family, who, throwing off in his presence the restraint which stifles social love, made him the witness of their innocent recreations. I have met him twenty times in his chaise with one child before him, whom he caressed as much as if this had been an only one; and I have been assured, that after a short absence, when he has revisited his little family, his embraces were generally mixed with tears of joy. It is impossible to have more tenderness and respect than he had for the Princess; and the union of this august couple was proposed as a model to all persons. The Prince of Wales loved the people as his children; and sure of being beloved by them, he relied on their affection for the safety of his person, walking the streets without guards, and only followed by a couple of servants. In this manner he visited the manufactories, where he liberally rewarded the workmen; for no one knew better than himself the necessity of encouraging the useful arts. Sometimes in rowing-matches on the water he would distribute the prizes to the victors with his own hand: he has also been seen conversing familiarly with a company of fishermen on matters belonging to their profession, rewarding them handsomely for their industry and information. He has travelled through several counties of England, where he has entered without ceremony into the hut of a labourer, neither disdaining

few days after which the King made an excursion to Kew, attended by his grandchildren.

Shortly after, the young Prince was removed

to sit down with the family, nor to partake with them in their humble repast; but informing himself of their occupations and circumstances, and relieving their wants as far as lay in his power. Of the following instance of his goodness, I was myself an eye-witness. Being in the park one morning by eight o'clock, at the moment the Prince entered his chair, a ragged soldier who had walked close by me, approached it. The Prince did not perceive him till the chairmen had taken him up; but then, immediately on perceiving the cripple, he ordered the men to stop. 'Where did you lose your arm, my friend?' said he.—'At Fontenoy,' answered the soldier. —'You look pale: are you in bad health?' replied the Prince.—'Yes, Sir,' said the man, 'since the loss of my arm, I have remained so feeble, that the least labour throws me into a fever.'—'And why have you not applied to be put on the list of out-pensioners?'—'I have been promised that,' said the soldier; 'but wanting a friend, many others, less miserable, have been preferred before me.'

"I had kept my eyes on the Prince during the whole of the dialogue, and I could perceive from his countenance the movements of his heart, which expressed the most lively sensibility. Having ordered his gentleman to give the poor creature four guineas, he said, 'My friend, come and see me, and I will endeavour to get you into Chelsea.'

"For some years past the Prince had redoubled his application to reading. He had a happy memory, and on any passage of history being cited, he could tell immediately whether it was pertinently or correctly stated. He also sought to inform himself in every art and science becoming a prince, without overlooking or despising the most mechanical, being

from his mother, and resided with the King, for a short period, at Kensington: but he suffered not the blandishments of a court to obliterate the memory of his father, evincing upon many occasions his filial piety and fond remembrance, even to shedding tears when the late Prince was spoken of.

persuaded that nothing was little or mean that could be serviceable to society.

"The only fault of which he was guilty was one not common with persons of his station, and that consisted in his want of indulgence to himself: his death is attributed to this cause; and though he was ill nine days, it may justly be esteemed sudden, since it happened at the time when his physicians thought him out of danger; and, if we may credit public report, they assured him that he had nothing to fear some minutes before his death.

"His Princess, though far advanced in her pregnancy, never quitted him day or night: she is so generally beloved, that her affliction greatly augments that of the people, as her own is greatly aggravated by the grief of her children, who, more sensible than is common at their age, are inconsolable.

"On all sides prayers are heard that God may preserve the King: and that he may have the comfort of leaving his grandson at a proper age to assume the royal sceptre. A thousand good things are said of this young Prince, and of the nobleman to whom his education is entrusted. We have yet received no orders for mourning; but this does not prevent the public from preparing for it; every one being desirous of shewing his sensibility of this heavy loss. The grief is universal; and even those, who from a party spirit had left the court, cannot help doing justice to the merit of the Prince, and owning that he was worthy to have sat on the British throne."

The death of the Prince filled the Opposition with the greatest consternation and confusion; and the first measure of government was the settlement of a regency, which was done upon fair and liberal terms. The Princess Dowager was made Regent, and guardian of the minor, as well as of her other children; but, being a female, there was a Council of regency appointed, consisting of the great officers of state, at the head of which was named the Duke of Cumberland. Every confidence, however, was placed in the Princess. No harsh limitations were thought of; and the King himself frequently visited her, treating her with every mark of respect, attention, and affection. Every pecuniary arrangement was also made and paid with punctuality, notwithstanding the immense drains upon the public treasury.

Though Prince George, on the death of his father, became heir apparent, yet he did not succeed of course as Prince of Wales: nor was he particularly distinguished from the rest of the Royal Family until that creation took place; for even in the new form of prayer he was merely included generally—the form being to pray for "Their Royal Highnesses the Princess of Wales, the Duke, the Princesses, the issue of the Prince and Princess of Wales, and all the Royal Family."

When the order for public mourning was issued by the Earl Marshal, it was stated to be "in pursuance of an order of Council, dated March 22d, 1750," O. S.; and the mourning was required to be the "deepest, long cloaks only excepted."

On the 31st of March there was a great court at St. James's, it being the first time the King appeared in public since the death of the Prince. On this occasion, Prince George, with his brothers, waited upon his Majesty, who, in the evening, paid a visit of condolence to his daughter-in-law at Leicester-house, which he followed up by another visit on the 4th of April, paying great attention to her comforts, and ordering the first quarterly payment of her income in advance.

On the 4th of April Prince George, at a general court of the Society of the Free British Fishery, was unanimously chosen governor, in the place of his late parent; and a few days afterwards, in consonance with a message from the King to the House of Peers, his Majesty announced the appointment of the regency, consisting of the Duke of Cumberland and the great officers of state, in case of a royal demise before his successor should attain the age of eighteen years.

Late in April, the Prince was created Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester. The creation took place by letters patent ordered on the 20th of April.

The patent passed the Great Seal on the 22d, in the evening, and on the ensuing morning was presented to his Royal Highness by the Lord Chancellor. The titles of the Prince, previous to this creation, were, "Prince of Great Britain, Electoral Prince of Brunswick Lunenburgh, Duke of Edinburgh, Marquis of the Isle of Ely, Earl of Eltham, Viscount of Launceston, Baron of Snowdon, and K. G. On the 29th, by order of the King in council, the prayer for the Royal Family was ordered to be in the following form, "Their Royal Highnesses George Prince of Wales, the Princess Dowager of Wales, the Duke, the Princesses, and all the Royal Family."

1752.

When the Prince died, as already stated, it was considered that there was no longer a bond of union for the political party which had surrounded him, particularly as the Princess Dowager, notwithstanding the charges so often repeated against her, gave no encouragement to those inclined to oppose the government; so that the Prince's friends, as they were called, now wholly withdrew from connexion with the infantine heir apparent*. At this period the Earl of Harcourt

* About this time, Lord Chesterfield drew up and presented to his Majesty the following petition, which, as a piece of wit and humour, is entitled to preservation.

was governor, and the Bishop of Norwich, Dr. Hayter, was preceptor to the Prince: and they have been accused of not only exerting their in-

"To the King's Most Excellent Majesty, the humble Petition of Philip Earl of Chesterfield, Knight of the most noble Order of the Garter, &c.

"Sheweth,

"That your Petitioner being rendered by deafness as useless and inefficient as most of his contemporaries are by nature, hopes, in common with them, to share your Majesty's royal favour and bounty, whereby he may be enabled to save or to spend, as he may think proper, a great deal more than he possibly can at present.

"That your Petitioner having had the honour to serve your Majesty in several very lucrative employments, seems thereby entitled to a lucrative retreat from business, and to enjoy *otium cum dignitate*, that is, 'leisure and a large pension.'

"Your Petitioner humbly apprehends, that he has a justifiable claim to a considerable pension, as he neither wants, nor deserves, but only desires, and (pardon, dread Sir, an expression you are pretty much used to) insists upon it.

"Your Petitioner is little apt, and always unwilling, to speak advantageously of himself; but as some degree of justice is due to oneself, as well as to others, he begs leave to represent, that his loyalty to your Majesty has always been unshaken, even in the worst of times; that particularly in the late unnatural rebellion, when the young Pretender had advanced as far as Derby, at the head of an army of at least three thousand men, composed of the flower of the Scotch nobility and gentry, who had virtue enough to avow, and courage enough to venture their lives, in support of their real principles, your Petitioner did not join him, as unquestionably he might have done, had he been so inclined; but, on the contrary, raised at the

fluence to detach his affections from all those who had enjoyed the favour of his deceased parent, but even, by their example and dis-

public expense sixteen companies of one hundred men each, in defence of your Majesty's undoubted right to the imperial crown of these realms; which service remains to this hour unrewarded.

"Your Petitioner is well aware that your Majesty's civil list must necessarily be in a very weak and languid condition, after the various and profuse evacuations it has undergone; but at the same time he humbly hopes, that an argument which does not seem to have been urged against any other person whatsoever, will not in a singular manner be urged against him, especially as he has some reasons to believe, that the deficiencies in the pension list will by no means be the last to be made good by Parliament.

"Your Petitioner begs leave to observe, that a small pension is disgraceful, as it intimates opprobrious indigence on the part of the receiver, and a degrading sort of dole or charity on the part of the giver; but that a great one implies dignity and affluence on the one side; on the other, esteem and consideration, which doubtless your Majesty must entertain in the highest degree for those great personages whose reputable names glare in capitals upon your eleemosynary list. Your Petitioner humbly flatters himself that, upon this principle, less than three thousand pounds a-year will not be proposed to him, and if made gold, the more agreeable.

"Your Petitioner persuades himself that your Majesty will not impute this his humble application to any mean interested motive, of which he has always had the utmost abhorrence. No, Sir! he confesses his weakness: honour alone is his object; honour is his passion; that honour which is sacred to him as a peer, and tender to him as a gentleman; that honour, in

course, of imparting sentiments of disrespect towards his mother.

That the fact was so has been re-asserted on the ground that the Prince himself, after coming to the throne, actually acknowledged his error with honest contrition and with suitable apologies: and the attempt, if true, was much facilitated by the constant jealousy and suspicion which George II. latterly felt for the Princess, even, perhaps, to a rooted dislike; so that, now, all those who wished to be well received at St. James's, were obliged to absent themselves from Leicester-fields, and the youthful heir was thus not only neglected and

short, to which he has sacrificed all other considerations. It is upon this single principle that your Petitioner solicits an honour, which at present in so extraordinary a manner adorns the British peerage; and which, in the most shining periods of ancient Greece, distinguished the greatest men, who were fed in the Prytaneum at the expense of the public.

"Upon this honour, far dearer to your Petitioner than his life, he begs leave in the most solemn manner to assure your Majesty, that in case you shall be pleased to grant this his most modest request, he will honourably support and promote, to the utmost of his abilities, the very worst measures that the very worst ministers can suggest; but at the same time, should he unfortunately, and in a singular manner, be branded by a refusal, he thinks himself obliged in honour to declare, that he will with the utmost acrimony oppose the very best measures which your Majesty yourself shall ever propose or promote.

"And your Petitioner, &c."

left in ignorance of the court, but subjected to the machinations of such intriguers and selfish politicians as might found their hopes of future greatness upon the perverted disposition of the future Monarch.

The first specific act in the system alluded to, was to bring charges against Mr. Stone, the Prince's sub-governor; and it was stated to the King that he was a jacobite; but the King referring the matter to the cabinet, the charge was dismissed on Mr. Stone's own defence.

It is a curious fact that Lord Mansfield, then Mr. Murray, and the Bishop of Gloucester, Dr. Johnson, were implicated in the charge, and obliged also to defend themselves, which they did most triumphantly. Yet the charges were persevered in, the governor and preceptor threatening to resign unless the sub-governor, Mr. Scott, the sub-preceptor, and Mr. Cresset, the Princess's secretary, were dismissed; but the King was convinced that there was no foundation for the assertion that these gentlemen were instilling arbitrary notions into his grandson, and therefore he accepted the proferred resignation, appointing the Earl of Waldegrave to succeed Lord Harcourt, and the Bishop of Peterborough, Dr. Thomas, to supersede the preceptor.

A very intelligent and loyal writer, treating of this subject, says, that the Duke of Newcastle

and his brother, Harry Pelham, who had long possessed an ascendancy over the mind of the sovereign in such a degree as to be almost his masters in the disposal of places, took upon them to meddle in the internal affairs of the family of the Princess Dowager of Wales. They wanted to have the entire management of the heir apparent; being apprehensive, no doubt, that, in the event of his coming to the crown, their power would cease, or be abridged. To effect their object, they began to infuse into the King's mind a jealousy of the persons who had the charge of the Prince's education; and in a long memorial they went so far as to accuse the noblemen and others about his Royal Highness of being infidels and jacobites, and with having put dangerous books into the hands of their pupil. The King was alarmed; but, instead of taking the course which the accusers expected, and turning the persons out of their employment, he ordered a committee to examine into the truth of the story. The whole affair is then accounted for by stating, that when the Prince was in his fifteenth year, he happened to pass through a room where one of the pages had casually left the History of the English Revolution, written in French by Father Orleans, and translated by Archdeacon Echard. The book attracted the notice of the Prince, who took it to his closet, and entered upon the perusal of it with that

intense curiosity which ever marked his character. While he was thus engaged, a nobleman, then in opposition, chanced to enter the apartment, and having taken particular notice of the book, but without making any observation at the time as to the manner in which the Prince obtained it, he immediately reported the circumstance to his party, by whom it was eagerly seized and converted into a grave matter of charge against the persons who had the care of his Royal Highness's education. These meddlers even proceeded so far as to draw up a long memorial on the occasion, which was presented in due form to George II. who knew very little about books, but was sensibly alarmed at the idea of what was called Toryism, which he, like many others, confounded with popery and jacobitism. As the good old King, however, was not master of the subject, he very prudently caused an inquiry to be instituted by those who were competent judges; the consequence of which was, a complete explanation on the part of the Prince, the expulsion of the poor page, and the disgrace of the informers.

It is but fair to add, however, that in the Life of the Earl of Chatham it is positively asserted, that the Bishop of Norwich found some very improper books put into the hands of his pupil, and that he complained of it to the Duke of Newcastle, soon after which, he and Lord Harcourt resigned.

The books are said to have been Father Orleans' Revolutions of the House of Stuart; Ramsey's Travels of Cyrus; Sir Robert Filmer's Patriarch; with others inculcating the same principles.

Yet the Princess herself afterwards declared that the stories about the history of Père D'Orleans were false; and that though there was a dispute which gave some colour to the charges, yet it arose solely between the Bishop and Prince Edward respecting Père Perefix's History of Henry IV. We may also believe that the story was not true, from the frequent intercourse of the Prince with his royal grandfather; for he and Prince Edward were now in the usual habit of riding out on horseback, often visiting the King at St. James's, and making long visits, during which any thing improper would have been discovered.

1753.

On the 9th of January the Bishop of Peterborough was appointed preceptor to the Prince of Wales, and gave great satisfaction to the Princess, from the extraordinary care and proper manner manifested in his conduct, whilst the royal children loved him, and were much pleased with his instructions.

The course of education was now of the most beneficial kind; and the public were fully satis-

fied that the Prince, instead of being separated from his remaining parent, should be especially under her care, whilst completing his elementary initiation into literature and politics. Leaving those subjects to the proper persons, it was the Princess's care to educate him in the protestant principles and constant practice of religion, in which she was ably assisted by Dr. Stephen Hales, whom she appointed clerk of the closet, whose task was certainly much lightened by the natural disposition of his youthful pupil—affectionate and gentle, and free from every appearance of vicious propensities. In the plan, however, of keeping the Prince exempt from the vices of the age, there was, perhaps, too much and unnecessary strictness; as it went so far as even to restrain him, with a few exceptions, from all intercourse with the young nobility, confining his knowledge of the world to books, and the social circle at Leicester-house, which, though select and cheerful as well as unrestrained, was not adapted to give that manliness of character necessary for a monarch, and might have been productive of much evil, had not the Prince's own natural resolution, since denominated obstinacy, preserved him from acquiring that milkiness of character which might have been expected.

Though Lord Bute did not at present hold any ostensible situation about the Prince, yet he took

part in his education; and it is said that from him the Prince derived his principal knowledge of the constitution; Bute actually drawing his subjects for conversation from Blackstone's Commentaries, which that learned judge permitted him to see in MS. and even to lay before the Prince for his perusal.

When Lord Bute was first appointed governor to the Prince, he was known to be possessed of abilities, and to be of a conduct decorous and correct: yet there is reason to believe that the King was very averse to his appointment, and only yielded in compliance with his daughter-in-law's partiality and perseverance. It must not, however, be allowed to pass unnoticed, that Mr. Nichols, a judicious observer of political events, and in the habit of associating with those who remembered that period, positively states that in intellectual powers the Princess Dowager was far superior to Lord Bute, who did not suggest, but merely received, her opinions and directions, founded upon the ideas of government which she had imbibed at a German court.

His Majesty's conduct, however, through life was too constitutional for us to suppose that arbitrary maxims had been inculcated to the extent generally asserted. If they were, then the more merit is due to our departed Sovereign for having overcome their influence upon his mind.

The Prince's character at this period is curiously delineated in a conversation related by Lord Melcombe with the Princess Dowager, who said that the public were very good to her, and that George had no other way of thinking, and would certainly act accordingly towards her; but yet she durst not let any body have the comfort of knowing it, lest they should put every thing into a flame; adding that he was very honest, but she wished that he was a little more forward, and less childish at his age (then fourteen), but that she hoped his preceptors would yet improve him. Lord Melcombe then asked what methods of instruction they took with him; what they read to him or made him read; and whether he shewed a particular inclination to any of the people about him. To which the Princess replied, that she really did not well know what they taught him; but to speak freely, she was afraid not much; that they were in the country, and followed their diversions, and not much else that she could discover. She also stated, that whenever Mr. Stone talked to the Prince of the general frame and nature of the government and constitution, and of the general course and manner of business, he seemed to give a proper attention, and often made particular remarks; but she did not consider the bishop as at all fitted to convey knowledge to children; for she did not well

understand him herself, his thoughts seeming to be too many for his words.

With respect to his morals, the Princess said that she did not observe the Prince to take very particularly to any one about him but to his brother Edward (afterwards Duke of York); and she was very glad of it, for the young people of quality were so ill educated, and so very vicious, that they frightened her.

There further appears, from this conversation, something very amiable in the royal mother's mode of bringing up her children; as she declared that she did all in her power to inculcate upon the young Prince's mind a tender regard for the memory of his father, and whenever any of the little ones behaved wrong or idly (as children will do) to any that belonged to the late Prince, she always asked them how they thought their father would have liked to see them behave so to any body that belonged to him and that he valued; and told them that they ought to have the more kindness for them because they had lost their friend and protector, who was their's also. This she described as having always a powerful effect, and making a proper impression upon them. This gained for her a momentary popularity, at least with the higher ranks; and on the 30th November, celebrated at St. James's as the Princess Dowager's birth-day, and also

at Leicester-house, the Countess of Falmouth actually fainted away in the drawing-room, occasioned by the heat of the overwhelming crowd, added to the excessive weight of her clothes, which were the richest and finest ever seen.

A few sketches from Lord Melcombe's Diary will further illustrate the mode of education of the youthful heir at this period. On one occasion, (November 1753) his lordship says, "The Princess sent for me to attend her between eight and nine o'clock. I went to Leicester-house, expecting a small company and a little music, but found nobody but her Royal Highness. She made me draw a stool and sit by the fire-side. Soon after came in the Prince of Wales and Prince Edward, and then the Lady Augusta, all in an undress, and took their stools and sat round the fire with us. We continued talking of familiar occurrences till between ten and eleven, with the ease, unreservedness, and unconstraint, as if one had dropped into a sister's house, that had a family, to pass the evening. It is much to be wished that the Princes conversed familiarly with more people of a certain knowledge of the world. The Princess's attention to me seems an indication of a good heart, as if resolved, as far as it is in her power, that the Prince should not forget those who were beloved by, and deserved well of his father."

Shortly after, on another occasion, he says, "I waited upon the Princess — I endeavoured (by her order) to explain to her the present unhappy divisions in Ireland, and begged her to make the Prince thoroughly master of them. I told her that though I did not doubt but that the present heats would somehow, and in appearance, be allayed, yet I was sincerely grieved at the consequences which might, from indisposing numbers of a rich and thriving people, most cordially attached to the family hitherto, arise in a new and young reign; that I did not like the prospect. She replied, with a visible alteration in her countenance to a mixture of fierceness and grief that I never had seen before, 'It is true, and we have other very disagreeable prospects.' Then very suddenly she recovered her placidness of look and voice. I said, 'Indeed, Madam, I do not see any.' What at that moment struck her I know not, but it was very forcibly; perhaps it might be the Duke" (Cumberland). "She told me some instances of the Prince's feeling the subjection he was under. I have since heard that Prince Edward complains of it, and of his brother's want of spirit. I said it was to be wished he could have more company. She seemed averse to the young people, from the excessive bad education they had, and from the bad examples they gave."

1754.

From this year may be dated the dawn of British superiority in the cotton trade, which was become so worthy of notice that a Mr Sedgwick, a very considerable wholesale trader in printed goods, felt himself called upon to present to the Princess Dowager a piece of "English chintz" of excellent workmanship, printed on an English cotton, and which drew forth high encomiums from that lady, who declared that it was preferable to any Indian chintz whatever, and expressed her determination to have it made up for her own wear, as an encouragement to the industry and ingenuity of the country.

Another instance of the attention paid by the Princess Dowager to the encouragement of native industry, and to the finding employment for females, was manifested on the Princess Augusta's birth-day, when she herself, and all the Princesses appeared in curious hats of fine thread needlework on book muslin, in hopes of bringing them into fashion, as it would employ a great number of poor girls, making useful subjects of those who would otherwise be burdensome to the public, or exposed to all the horrors of vice and penury.

Like her husband too, the Princess aimed at literary patronage; and the following whimsical anecdote has been related of Gray. When this

ingenious and very modest writer had composed his tragedy of The Captives, he obtained permission to read it to the Princess of Wales, at Leicester-house. The day was fixed, and the author attended with punctuality, but being unequal to the trial in which he was engaged, when the door of the drawing-room, where the Princess sat with her ladies, was opened for his admission, he was so much embarrassed and concerned about making his proper obeisance, that he did not perceive a small stool that happened to be near him, and stumbling over it, he fell against a large screen, which overset, and threw the ladies into the utmost confusion. The condescension of her Royal Highness soon put matters to rights, but the poor author was so disordered by the accident, that he blundered through the piece with the greatest difficulty, and left a very unfavourable impression on the minds of his auditors, with respect to his talents and his performance.

In all these literary assemblies the young Prince was encouraged to assist, and he early displayed a taste for general literature, but particularly for controversy; and he was so pleased with Leland's admirable view of Deistical Writers, that he purchased one hundred copies, solely for the purpose of distributing them wherever he thought they might be useful, manifesting a degree of judgment, discrimination, and liberality scarcely to be ex-

pected so early in life. It was about this time too that he first patronized the late Earl of Liverpool, who had attracted public notice by the verses which he wrote at Oxford on the demise of the Prince of Wales.

We may here observe, that the young Prince began soon to pay personal attention to the navy, and expressed himself much gratified by several aquatic excursions at this period. On the 22d of July, he and his brother Edward, then intended for the sea service, accompanied by their uncle the Duke of Cumberland, and attended by Lord Harcourt, Lord Anson, Admiral Rowley, and a great number of persons of distinction, went by water to Woolwich, followed by the Lords of the Admiralty, and the Commissioners of the Navy and Victualling, in their respective barges: the whole scene having evidently a grand political effect, in addition to the general object of amusement. The young Princes did not make it a mere gala day, but paid a marked attention to every thing useful and curious, taking a view of the several works in the dock yard, seeing the manner of forging an anchor, of making sails, &c. They next visited the Royal Anne, a first-rate then building, then the Dunkirk, a line of battle ship, which they saw launched, an hour after which a new sloop of war went off the stocks in high style, when their Royal Highnesses retired to the Caroline

yacht, where an elegant repast was provided; the whole party returning to town in the evening.

1755.

In the ensuing year, 1755, it is said that there was some design on the part of the King to find a consort for the young Prince at this period, with which intention he invited two princesses of Brunswick, nieces of the King of Prussia, to meet him at Hanover, but no active steps were then taken.

The disputes between the Princess Dowager and several branches of the Royal Family, began also at this period to take a decided turn. Horace Walpole says, in a letter to Mr. Montague—" On Thursday begins our warfare, and if we may believe signs and tokens, our winter will be warlike; I mean at home: I have not much faith in the invasion. Her Royal Highness, and his Royal Highness, [the Duke of Cumberland] are likely to come to an open rupture." Her Highness did not neglect making friends amongst the literati; in particular, she gave to Home 100*l.* per annum.

1756.

On the Prince coming of age, or eighteen, the King displayed considerable generosity, ordering him a separate allowance of 40,000*l.* per annum out of the civil list, independent of the sum for-

merly granted to the Princess. The first notification of this allowance from the King to the Prince was accompanied by the offer, as Lord Melcombe states, of apartments both at Kensington and St. James's. That offer, however, was declined by his Royal Highness, on account of the mortification it would be to his mother.

This was certainly a pointed expression on his part; for he was not then actually living with the Princess, as Doddington adds, "either in town or country."

The youthful heir apparent was already led into the toils of party, in opposition to the ministry of the first Lord Holland, or the Newcastle cabinet; for the meetings of the Opposition took place almost daily at Leicester-house, where his levees were crowded, Mr. Pitt, Lord Temple, and the Grenvilles being frequently seen there. This excited great alarm in the breasts of the Duke of Newcastle, and Chancellor Hardwicke, and "their wish was now to get possession of the Prince." In furtherance of this design, they persuaded the King to send a message to Leicester-house, offering the Prince a suite of apartments at St. James's and another at Kensington Palace; a message which excited the greatest consternation in the Bute partizans, and it was whispered that even the Bute interest would have yielded, had not some others prevented it. Those who wish to

enter deeper into the intrigue may consult the first volume of the anecdotes of the Earl of Chatham, where it is said in a note, that "a female Saxe-Gotha was in the contemplation of her in whom a desire of such affinity was not only probable but interesting; but the proposal was instantly reprobated by a higher person, who, after expressing himself in terms of asperity, said *he knew enough of that family already*,"—but such a reflection on the late Queen Caroline is not very probable.

Some idea of the rising promise of the youthful heir to monarchy, may be drawn from the following letter which was really addressed to his Royal Highness at this period, by a gentleman of high literary attainments and distinguished loyalty:—

"May it please your Royal Highness,

"The unexpected sight of your Royal Highness and Prince Edward, on Thursday last, crossing the road near Richmond, afforded me an infinite pleasure, easier to be conceived than expressed, when I saw in your Royal Highnesses a graceful becoming dignity, with free, open, and condescending countenances, that bespoke sedate, humane, and manly dispositions, glowing with youthful ardour for the general welfare of mankind, most worthy of your high births.

"This pleasing prospect caused me to reflect;

—these are royal Princes—the one next in succession to the greatest King that ever filled the throne, (the other in all probability will, in time, be one of its chiefest supporters,) a King whom the people adore, and who has justly merited the additional title, after *Defender of the Faith*, of the *well-beloved*, and *the honest*. It therefore must be extremely grateful—the further view of conveying to latest posterity the blessings we now enjoy, under the government of our present most gracious sovereign.

"Thus delighted—I returned thanks to ALMIGHTY GOD for bestowing so remarkable a blessing on these kingdoms, as that of preferring to the crown the descendants of that most illustrious and amiable Princess Elizabeth, a daughter of Britain, late Queen of Bohemia, who was early the darling of the English nation, and whose royal house has, from its first intermarriage, been revered and respected by all good Englishmen.

"History relates many instances of young Princes so far condescending as to speak even to the meanest of their royal father's subjects; which I am assured your Highnesses have likewise done with great humanity and complacency. From this example, I flatter myself I shall, agreeably to your innate princely goodness, obtain a pardon for presuming to pay my homage in this way, and also for my presumption in laying before you, a

little poetical description of my small villa at Richmond.

"Should I ever have the happiness of the presence of both your Royal Highnesses to see my little retreat, the height of my ambition will be satisfied; especially as it will honour me with an opportunity of professing in person how much I am, with the most awful and respectful submission,

"May it please your Royal Highness,
&c. &c. &c."

1757—1758.

A most extraordinary instance of royal condescension to the opinion of the City of London, was manifested by his Majesty in the month of Nov. 1757, shortly after the well-known failure of the expedition to the coast of France, when on the 5th of that month, in a common council at Guildhall, a motion was made to address the King on that miscarriage; but after some debate the Lord Mayor was asked by a member of the court, if any information had been given to his Lordship on an inquiry being intended to be made; when he replied that on Monday evening, the 31st of October, William Blair, Esq. one of the clerks of his Majesty's most honourable privy council, came to the Mansion-house, and acquainted him, that his Majesty had given proper directions for

an inquiry to be forthwith made into the behaviour of the commanding officers of that expedition, or to that effect; upon which the motion was instantly withdrawn. It appeared finally that no blame attached to Hawke: but public censure fell heavily upon the General, Sir John Mordaunt. Perhaps a portion of the royal condescension may be attributed to the late Earl of Chatham, then in power as Secretary of State.

1759.

The Prince of Wales now resided at Saville-house, next to Leicester-house, still his mother's residence; when on the 4th of June 1759, (N. S.) there was a most brilliant court, in compliment to his birth-day. In the evening there was a general illumination, with the exception of the house of a quaker, then an eminent woollen draper in Cornhill, at which the mob were so much irritated that they pulled up the pavement and split the window-shutters of his shop with large stones, whilst the smaller ones were flung up as high as the third story, the windows of which were shattered to pieces, as well indeed as the rest of the house in front.

The same day the new bridge at Kew was opened, when upwards of 3000 foot passengers went over, and 100 workmen dined in a place appointed for that purpose; in the evening there

were a bonfire and illuminations at Kew-green; and the healths of his Majesty, and their Royal Highnesses were drank.

It is a curious circumstance that although in 1756 the Prince of Wales had attained the year of royal majority, yet it was not until the usual year of legal majority that he took his seat in the House of Peers, as Duke of Cornwall.*

* We cannot better mark the public feeling at that auspicious moment than by the following addresses from the City of London.

Kensington, June 8. This day the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons, of the City of London, in Common-council assembled, waited on his Majesty, and being introduced to his Majesty by the Right Honourable the Earl of Essex, one of the Lords of his Majesty's bed-chamber, Sir William Moreton, Knt. the Recorder, made their compliments in the following address:

"To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble address of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons, of the City of London, in Common-council assembled.

"May it please your Majesty,

"We your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons, of the City of London, in Common-council assembled, humbly beg leave to congratulate your Majesty on the satisfaction of seeing your royal grandson the Prince of Wales, that great object of your Majesty's paternal care and solicitude, arrive at his age of twenty-one years, mature in all the accomplishments that can add lustre to his high dignity, or command the love and veneration of mankind.

Previous to this he had seen a little, and but a little, of the kingdoms he was shortly to govern, in a trip to Scotland along with Lord Bute. Dressed as private gentlemen, and attended only by two servants, they reached Edinburgh without being discovered. Here, while they alighted to change horses, a cavalry officer passed by the inn, and easily traced the royal features through all the

"Long may his Royal Highness enjoy the benefit of your Majesty's salutary precepts and example, and continue to make your Majesty the amplest returns of filial duty and respect. May his Royal Highness live to emulate the virtues that have endeared your Majesty's sacred person and government to a free people; and may there never be wanting one of your Majesty's illustrious race to perpetuate the blessings we derive from your auspicious reign.

"Permit us, most gracious Sovereign, to embrace this opportunity of humbly assuring your Majesty, that no hostile threats can intimidate a people animated by the love of liberty, and inspired with a sense of duty and affection to your Majesty; who, confiding in the Divine Providence, and the experienced wisdom and vigour of your Majesty's councils, are resolved to employ their utmost efforts towards enabling your Majesty to repel the insults, and defeat the attempts, of the ancient enemies of your Majesty's crown and kingdoms."

To which address his Majesty was pleased to return this most gracious answer:

"The cordial expressions of your constant attachment to my person and family are very agreeable to me; and I return you my hearty thanks for this fresh mark of your zeal and affection.

disguise which covered them. He immediately took horse, and followed the travellers at a distance. Eager to unriddle some important mystery which he supposed to be the occasion of this journey, he followed the travellers from Edinburgh to Glasgow, from thence to the west of Scotland,

"I have the firmest confidence in the fidelity and spirit of my people, and I trust I shall be well enabled, under the Divine Providence, to defeat and frustrate the most daring attempts of the ancient enemy of my crown."

Saville-house, June 9. This day the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons, of the City of London, in Common-council assembled, waited on his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and being introduced by the Right Honourable Lord Robert Bertie, one of the Lords of his Royal Highness's bed-chamber, Sir William Moreton, the Recorder, made their compliments in the following speech:

"To his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

"May it please your Royal Highness,

"Your Royal Highness having happily attained your age of twenty-one years, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons, of the City of London, in Common-council assembled, humbly beg leave to compliment your Royal Highness upon an event so pleasing to the King, and so very interesting to his Majesty's faithful subjects.

"But permit us, Sir, at the same time, without offending the modesty which so eminently distinguishes and adorns your character, to express the yet greater pleasure we enjoy in beholding your Royal Highness possessed of every virtue and accomplishment which we had reason to presage from the excellence of your genius, and the goodness of your disposition.

and lastly to the Isle of Bute. After this he traced them by another route back to the inn where he first discovered them at Edinburgh; and, having so far gratified his curiosity, discontinued his observations.

"When we consider your Royal Highness's exemplary piety, your dutiful deportment towards the King, your respectful affection for your august mother, your early knowledge of the constitution and true interests of these kingdoms, and your solicitude for the happiness and prosperity of the people, we form the most agreeable prospects, and reflect with gratitude upon the wisdom and attention that have been employed to cultivate these noble sentiments in your princely breast.

"May they more and more endear your Royal Highness to his Majesty, and hereafter be exerted in a higher sphere in preserving the religious and civil rights, happily intrusted to the protection of his Majesty's illustrious house."

To which his Royal Highness was pleased to return the following answer:

"My Lord, and Gentlemen,

"I return you my hearty thanks for this mark of your duty to the King, and attention to me. You may always depend upon my warmest wishes for the prosperity of this great city, and for whatever can in the least promote the trade and manufactures of my native country."

They all had the honour to kiss his Royal Highness's hand.

Leicester-house, June 9. This day the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons, of the City of London, in Common-council assembled, waited on her Royal Highness the Princess Dowager of Wales, and being introduced by Sir William Irby, Bart. Chamberlain to her Royal Highness, Sir William Moreton, the Recorder, made their compliments in the following speech:

This was the great and glorious year in which the vauntings of French ambition met appropriate checks in all parts of the world, particularly in their threatened invasion, which however was laughed at by all rational persons, and on which a paper of that day observed, "We hear there

"To her Royal Highness the Princess Dowager of Wales.

"May it please your Royal Highness,

"The Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons, of the City of London, in Common-council assembled, warmed with the most dutiful affection for his Majesty, and with gratitude to your Royal Highness for the early and repeated marks of your regard, humbly beg leave to compliment your Royal Highness upon the happiness of seeing your illustrious Son the Prince of Wales arrived at the age of twenty-one years, endowed with every noble quality which maternal fondness could hope, or a free people wish in the heir apparent to the crown.

"These, Madam, are the fruits, these the glorious reward of your Royal Highness's pious instructions and example.

"By having thus laid the foundation of our future happiness and prosperity, your Royal Highness has secured the blessings of the present age, and a name of distinguished honour in the future annals of Great Britain."

To which her Royal Highness was pleased to return the following answer:

"My Lord and Gentlemen,

"I return you many thanks for your most obliging compliment: my utmost ambition has ever been to see my son answer the expectation of his country; if I have succeeded in that, all my wishes are completed."

They all had the honour to kiss her Royal Highness's hand.

have been insurrections in several parts of France by the common people, who are driven to the greatest extremities; and that, to appease them, the people in power give out, that they will, at all events, invade Great Britain in a very short time, and raise up the present drooping glory of the Grand Monarque *."

* The distress of the French at this moment may be drawn from the following

Extract of a Letter from Paris, November 12.

"The plate which the king hath sent to the mint amounts to the sum of 1,800,000 livres; the Dauphiness has sent to the mint even her toilette; the king and the princes of the blood have kept only plates and spoons for ragouts. In four-and-twenty hours there was carried to the mint to the amount of five millions. It is thought Paris alone will furnish forty millions."

And also by an extract from our own squadron off Brest:

"We have been some time under the command of the Hon. Capt. Hervey, who has the Monmouth; and we are now six at anchor in sight of the French fleet at Brest; and though it is a most troublesome and dangerous station, we bear those inconveniencies with pleasure. Three days ago the commodore went with his ship close to the enemy, leaving us all in a line of battle without him. He brought out two very large vessels that lay under a fort, laden with stones of six and seven hundred weight each, ready cut for the repairing their basin. The next night he manned those vessels, and with the boats of his squadron landed at day-light on an island, and in sight of their fleet brought off all the cattle upon it. Yesterday he laid the great island of Molines under contribution for cattle and greens, which we got off. Our captain tells me, that the commodore

Though it is no part of our plan to write a history of the period, we cannot pass over a curious fact respecting Marshal Belleisle, who had formed

sent the governor word, that he was sorry if what he had done had distressed the inhabitants; but he meant it only as an insult to the French fleet, and to shew them, and all Europe, that they could not protect their own people in their sight, much less dare to attempt the invasion of England. This has put our people in great spirits, it being five or six days fresh provisions for all the ships crews here, besides much milk for the men who have the scurvy, which we were much in want of, as our people begin to fall down with that distemper."

This period also may be here illustrated by the royal speech at the opening of parliament at the close of the year.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"In pursuance of the authority given to us, by his Majesty's commission, under the Great Seal, amongst other things, to declare the cause of his holding this parliament, his Majesty has been graciously pleased to direct us to assure you, that he esteems himself particularly happy in being able to call you together, in a situation of affairs so glorious and advantageous to his crown and kingdoms.

"His Majesty sees, and devoutly adores the hand of Providence, in the many signal successes, both by sea and land, with which his arms have been blessed, in the course of the last summer; and at the same time his Majesty reflects with much satisfaction on the confidence which you placed in him, by making such ample provision, and entrusting him with such extensive powers, for carrying on a war, which the defence of our invaluable rights and possessions, and the preservation of the navigation and commerce of his Majesty's people, had made just and necessary.

"We have it also in command from his Majesty to acquaint

a project of still making the Pretender useful in producing a division of the British forces. The Duke de Choiseul was employed to arrange mat-

you, that the happy progress of our successes, from the taking of Goree, on the coast of Africa, to the conquest of so many important places in America, with the defeat of the French army in Canada, and the reduction of their capital city of Quebec, effected with so much honour to the courage and conduct of his Majesty's officers both at sea and land, and with so great lustre to his intrepid forces; together with the important success obtained by his Majesty's fleet off Cape Lagos, and the effectual blocking-up, for so many months, the principal part of the navy of France in their own ports—are events which must have filled the hearts of all his Majesty's faithful subjects, as well as his own, with the sincerest joy: and, his Majesty trusts, will convince you, that there has been no want of vigilance, or vigour, on his part, in exerting those means which you with so much prudence and public-spirited zeal put into his Majesty's hands.

"That our advantages have extended farther: and the Divine blessing has favoured us in the East-Indies, where the dangerous designs of his Majesty's enemies have miscarried; and that valuable branch of our trade has received great benefit and protection.

"That the memorable victory gained over the French, near Minden, has long made a deep impression on the minds of his Majesty's people. And that if the crisis in which that battle was fought, the superior numbers of the enemy, and the great and able conduct of his Majesty's General, Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, are considered, that action must be the subject of lasting admiration and thankfulness. That, if any thing could fill the breasts of his Majesty's good subjects with still farther degrees of exultation, it is the distinguished and unbroken

ters with the Pretender, although he did not approve of the plan. He saw that unfortunate Prince, however, but it was late at night, when

valour of his Majesty's troops, owned and applauded by those whom they overcame. The glory they have gained is not merely their own; but, in a national view, is one of the most important circumstances of our success, as it must be a striking admonition to our enemies, with whom they have to contend.

"That his Majesty's good brother and ally the King of Prussia, attacked and surrounded by so many considerable powers, has by his magnanimity, and abilities, and the bravery of his troops, been able, in a surprising manner, to prevent the mischiefs concerted, with such united force, against him.

"His Majesty has farther commanded us to observe to you, that as his Majesty entered into this war not from views of ambition, so he does not wish to continue it from motives of resentment. The desire of his Majesty's heart is, to see a stop put to the effusion of Christian blood, whenever such terms of peace can be established, as shall be just and honourable for his Majesty and his allies; and by procuring such advantages as, from the successes of his Majesty's arms, may, in reason and equity, be expected shall bring along with them full security for the future: his Majesty will rejoice to see the repose of Europe restored on such solid and durable foundations, and his faithful subjects, to whose liberal support and unshaken firmness his Majesty owes so much, happy in the enjoyment of the blessings of peace and tranquillity: but in order to this great and desirable end, his Majesty is confident you will agree with him, that it is necessary to make ample provision for carrying on the war, in all parts, with the utmost vigour.

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

"We are commanded by his Majesty to assure you, that the great supplies which were given the last session, have been

the latter, who had just come from a grand supper, was so intoxicated that he was almost speechless, and little able to understand the purport of

faithfully employed for the purposes for which they were granted; but the uncommon extent of this war, and the various services necessary to be provided for, in order to secure success to his Majesty's measures, have unavoidably occasioned extraordinary expenses, an account of which will be laid before you.

"His Majesty has also ordered the proper estimates for the service of the ensuing year to be prepared and laid before you; and his Majesty desires you to grant him such supplies, as shall be necessary to sustain and press, with effect, all our extensive operations against the enemy; and at the same time, by the blessing of God, to repel and frustrate their daring designs against his Majesty's kingdoms.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"His Majesty has, in the last place, been graciously pleased to command us to repeat to you, the assurances of the high satisfaction his Majesty takes in that union and good harmony, which is so conspicuous amongst his faithful subjects, happy in seeing it continued and confirmed; and to observe to you, that experience has shewn how much we all owe to it; and that nothing else can effectually secure the true happiness of his people."

Let it be remembered here, that the joys of the monarch were softened by the sorrows of a father for the loss of an affectionate daughter. The Princess was of a genius and disposition equally to be admired and loved; formed to be the delight and honour of a court; possessed of an uncommon wit, tempered with judgment, and restrained by modesty; for ever cheerful, and the cause of cheerfulness; excellent in all female

the mission. His first demand was to be sent to London with an army; but Belleisle's plan was to send him to try his fortune in America, which he refused. The design, of course, failed; but it is not the less curious as an historical fact: to which we can add, on the authority of the abbé Fabroni, rector of the university of Paris, that, at the commencement of the American war, letters were actually sent from the Bostonians to the Pretender, inviting him to come and put himself at their head!

Though the Princess Dowager was not in favour at Court, yet her birth-day was still kept at St. James's on the 6th December. On this occasion

accomplishments, and eminent particularly for her skill and taste in music; but more than all distinguished by her goodness. Her nearest relations lost a dear and amiable companion, her Royal Parent an obedient child, and Britain a supreme blessing. Applause which follows greatness often exceeds its subject; here it is less than truth.

As her will is remarkable for its brevity and simplicity, it may be properly here inserted.

"I leave my sister Amelia all I have in possession, and make her my sole executrix, excepting these few legacies: To my dear sister Anne, an enamelled case, and two bottles of the same sort. To my dear sister Mary, my emerald set with diamonds, and the brilliant drops hanging to it, and my ruby ring with the Queen's hair. To my dear sister Louisa, my diamond earrings, and all my rings. To my brother William, my enamelled watch. This is my last will, writ with my own hand.

"CAROLINA."

the Prince of Wales opened the ball with the Princess Augusta, the good old King staying in the ball-room till near midnight.

1760.

The Prince of Wales was now brought forward by his royal grandfather in various acts of state and of court arrangements. On the 4th of February 1760 he took a more prominent part in parliament than he had hitherto done, being named in the commission for giving the royal assent to several bills; as detailed in the following terms by the journals of that day:—

"The Lords being met, a message was sent to the honourable House of Commons, desiring their immediate attendance; and the Commons being come, a commission, empowering their Royal Highnesses the Prince and the Duke, and several Lords, to notify the royal assent to a bill, was read, and the royal assent given to

"An act for granting to his Majesty several duties upon malt, &c. &c.

"A chapter of the most noble Order of the Garter was held in the council chamber at St. James's. Present, The Sovereign, the Prince of Wales, his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, his Royal Highness Prince Edward, the Duke of Newcastle, the Duke of Kingston, the Duke of Leeds, Earl Granville, the Earl of Lin-

coln, the Earl of Cardigan, the Duke of Devonshire, the Earl of Northumberland, and Earl Waldegrave; when Charles Marquis of Rockingham, and Richard Earl Temple, were knighted, and elected companions of the said most noble Order; and afterwards invested with the Garter, Ribbon, and George, with the accustomed solemnities."

The interest which the nation feels, in the object of their regret, gives a value to these little notices; to which we add the pleasing fact, that the youthful heir apparent, with great delicacy and propriety, did not attend in his place in parliament during the trial of the unhappy Lord Ferrers in April; whilst his brother, the Duke of York, declined taking his seat until the trial was over, that he might not be obliged to vote on so important a question as the life of a fellow-creature.

Though mixing thus at times in public life, much of the Prince's leisure was spent in rural retirement at Kew, where the Princess Dowager commenced in this year a collection of exotic plants, the precursor of the present Royal Botanical Garden, on a scale of liberal munificence; besides continuing to erect, under the superintendence of Sir William Chambers, the various ornamental buildings in the gardens, originally planned by the deceased Prince.

A new era was now approaching, in the accession of a new monarch; previous to which, on the 22d of May, the session of Parliament being closed, we refer to the annexed note * for a view of the

* "My Lords and Gentlemen,

"We have received the King's commands to put an end to this session of Parliament; and, upon this occasion, to assure you, that his Majesty looks back with entire satisfaction on your proceedings during the course of it. The duty and affection which you have expressed for his person and government, and the zeal and unanimity which you have shewn in maintaining the true interest of your country, can only be equalled by what his Majesty has formerly experienced from this Parliament.

"His Majesty has commanded us to acquaint you, that it would have given him the most sensible pleasure to have been able to communicate to you, that his sincere endeavours to promote a general pacification had met with more suitable returns before this time. His Majesty, in conjunction with his brother and ally, the King of Prussia, chose to give their enemies proofs of this equitable disposition, in the midst of a series of glorious victories; an opportunity the most proper to do it with dignity, and to manifest to all Europe the purity and moderation of his views. After such a conduct, his Majesty has the comfort to reflect, that the further continuance of the calamities of war cannot be imputed to him or his allies; and trusts in the blessings of heaven, upon the justice of his arms, and upon those ample means which your zeal in so good a cause has wisely put into his hands, that his future successes in carrying on the war will not fall short of the past; and that, in the event, the public tranquillity will be restored on solid and durable foundations.

state of the empire at that period, the glories of which were certainly owing to the genius of the immortal Chatham, whose spirit had infused energy into every department of the state, and fully justified the statements of the royal speech.

On the 25th of October the King had risen at his usual time, without any apparent signs of indisposition. He called his page, drank his chocolate, and inquired about the wind, as if

"We are further commanded to acquaint you, that his Majesty has taken the most effectual care to augment the combined army in Germany; and, at the same time, to keep up such a force at home, as may frustrate any attempts of the enemy to invade these kingdoms, which have hitherto ended only in their own confusion.

"The royal navy was never in a more flourishing and respectable condition; and the signal victory obtained last winter over the French fleet, on their own coasts, as it has added lustre to his Majesty's arms, has given fresh spirit to his maritime forces, and reduced the naval strength of France to a very low ebb.

"His Majesty has disposed his squadrons in such a manner, as may best conduce to the annoyance of his enemies; to the defence of his own dominions, both in Europe and America; and to the preserving and pursuing his conquests, as well as to the protection of the trade of his subjects, which he has extremely at heart.

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

"Nothing could relieve his Majesty's royal mind, under the anxiety which he feels for the burdens of his faithful subjects, but the public-spirited cheerfulness with which you have

anxious for the arrival of the mails, which had been detained in Holland a considerable time. He then opened his window, and looked out for the quarter from whence the wind blew; and seeing it a fine day, said he would walk in the garden. This passed while the page attended him at breakfast; but on leaving the room he heard a deep sigh, immediately followed by a noise like the falling of a billet of wood from the fire: and, returning hastily, found the King dropt down from

granted him such large supplies, and his conviction, that they are necessary for the security and essential interests of his kingdoms. The King has enjoined us to return you his hearty thanks for them; and to assure you of their due application to the purposes for which they have been given.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"We have nothing further in command from his Majesty, but to recommend to you the continuance and improvement of that union and good harmony, which he has observed with so much pleasure, and from which he has derived such imporsant effects. Make it your study to promote these desirable objects; to support the King's government, and the good order of your respective counties; and to consult your own real happiness and prosperity. This behaviour, his Majesty graciously assures you, will be the most acceptable demonstration of your duty to him."

After which the Lord Keeper said,

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"It is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this parliament be prorogued to Thursday the seventeenth day of July next, to be then here held; and this parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday the seventeenth day of July next."

his seat as if in attempting to ring the bell. "Call Amelia," said the King, and instantly expired. He was raised and laid upon the bed: the Princess was called, and told that he was dead upon her entering the room; being a little deaf, however, and her spirits being hurried by the alarm, she did not understand what was said, but ran up to the bed-side, and stooping tenderly over her parent, as thinking he might speak to her in a low voice, she then discovered that he was dead, and was instantly thrown into an alarming agony by the shock so violent and so unexpected.

The deceased Monarch, in his fall, appeared to have received a small hurt upon his temple. His physicians and surgeons came rapidly to his assistance: but all was of no avail. An attempt was made to bleed him: but the blood had ceased to circulate.

The immediate cause of the King's death is said to have been the rupture of some vessel or of a membrane in the heart, to frequent palpitations of which organ he had been subject for several years*; so much so, indeed, that for some considerable time previous to his decease he had been

* Epitaph by Beilby Porteus, M. A. Fellow of Christ College, Cambridge, afterwards Bishop of London.

This marble boasts what once was truly great,
The friend of man, the father of his state.

in the habit of undressing and retiring to bed for an hour or two every afternoon. It appears however that this was rather for repose than sleep; as a writer, acquainted with the private history of the time, observes that Lord Chatham, (then Mr. Pitt, and secretary of state,) who was sometimes

To check ambition in its wild career;
To wipe from misery's eye the starting tear;
By well plann'd laws, oppression to control;
By kindest deeds to captivate the soul;
Stern justice' sword to guide with mercy's hand,
And guard the freedom of a glorious land;
These were his acts—these heaven approved, and shed
Unnumber'd blessings on his hoary head.
Forced into arms, he stretch'd his generous sway
Wide as the sun extends his genial ray;
Yet swa (blest privilege) his Britons share
The smile of peace amidst the rage of war;
Saw to his shores encreasing commerce roll,
And floods of wealth flow in from either pole;
Warm'd by his influence, by his bounty fed,
Saw Science raise her venerable head;
Whilst at his feet expiring Faction lay,
No contest left but who should best obey;
Saw in his offspring all himself renew'd,
The same fair path of glory still pursued;
Saw to young GEORGE, AUGUSTA's cares impart
Whate'er could raise or humanize the heart,
Blend all his grandsire's virtues with his own,
And form their mingled radiance for the throne.
No further blessing could on earth be given,
The next degree of happiness—was heaven!

obliged to transact business with his Majesty even on those occasions, always knelt down on a cushion by the bed-side; a mark of respect which tended much to render him acceptable to the Monarch.

Of the many anecdotes of the good old King we shall here select a few of the most prominent.

Though strongly attached to etiquette, yet the good Monarch could not always check the impulses of his heart towards the humble and lowly. On one occasion, a decent individual happened to spend the afternoon with one of the royal establishment, who lived in the upper story of St. James's Palace, and retiring in the evening, unluckily slipped his foot after his friend's door was closed, falling down a whole flight of steps, when his head, striking against a private door, burst it open. The fall completely stunned him; but on recovering, he found himself lying on the floor of a small apartment, most kindly attended by a neat little old gentleman, who was carefully washing his head with a towel, and placing pieces of sticking-plaster with great care upon one or two spots, where he had been cut or bruised by the fall. The man's surprise kept him for some time silent; until he found the dressings completed, and even his wig picked up, by the good Samaritan, and carefully placed upon his head. He now

rose from the floor, and limping towards his benefactor, began to pour forth his grateful thanks; but was checked by an expressive frown, accompanied by a motion of the hand waving to the door of the closet. The hint was understood and taken, though not without some wonder that a man so kind and considerate should yet be so unsociable; but his wonder ceased, when, upon relating the circumstance to a friend, he was informed that it was to the Monarch himself that he was indebted for his recovery and accommodation.

His Majesty being himself afflicted with a violent pain in his thumb, which baffled all the applications of the faculty, resolved to send for the noted Dr. Joshua Ward, who was at that time in high vogue with the public on account of the real or supposed virtues of his pill and drop. Previous to his being admitted into the royal presence, Ward ascertained the nature of the complaint, and prepared himself with a particular nostrum, which he kept concealed in the hollow of his hand. When he was introduced, he requested permission to examine the infected part; which the King complying with, Ward gave him so sudden a wrench, that his Majesty, who was naturally passionate, cursed him for a rascal, and kicked him on the shins. The Doctor bore all this very patiently, and when he found the King a little cool

he respectfully asked him to move his thumb, which he easily did, and, to his great joy and surprise, found that the pain was entirely gone. His Majesty was so transported at this relief, that he called Ward his Æsculapius, made him sit down in his presence, and insisted on knowing what he could do for him. Ward replied, that he was sufficiently remunerated by the pleasure of serving his Majesty; but that he had a nephew unprovided for, any favour conferred upon whom he should consider as bestowed upon himself. The King immediately insisted on the Doctor's acceptance of a handsome carriage and horses, and afterwards presented an ensigncy in the guards to his nephew, the late General Gansell.

The financial distresses of this reign were whimsically illustrated by an idiot, or half-witted fellow, employed as a workman during some repairs at Kensington, where the King sometimes amused himself by a daily inspection of progress. One day, this fellow, unconscious of the distance between royalty and himself, asked the King for something to drink; and the Monarch, though displeased at the freedom of the request, yet ashamed to refuse it, mechanically put his hand to both his pockets, but found them empty. "I have no money," said the King.—"Nor I either," replied the workman; "I can't think where it is all gone to, for my part!" The remark, it is said, did not

please his Majesty; and the man was removed to other duty.

The extreme regularity of George II. in paying his household, was pointedly exemplified in the anecdote of his sending one day for Mr. Pelham in a hurry, to ask why the civil list was not paid; when Pelham confessed that the money had been applied to some other purpose, which he had considered as of more importance. But the King, swearing an oath, told him, that if he would not pay the arrears instantly, he would get another minister that should pay it. "I will not," added his Majesty, "be the only master in my kingdom who does not see his servants paid!"

The King was sometimes out of patience with the Commons: but a whimsical anecdote of Walpole's mode of influencing the House is told in Dr. King's Anecdotes of his own times; where it is stated, that once when Sir Robert wished to carry an important point, to which he knew there would be great opposition, as it was disliked even by his own dependents, he waited for some time in the avenues of St. Stephen's, and passing through the Court of Requests, met a member of the opposite party whose avarice, he imagined, would not refuse a bribe. He therefore took him aside, and said, "Such a question comes on this day; give me your vote, and here is a bank-bill of 2000*l.*" which he put into his hands. The member did

not reject the offer, but with that modesty which made him wish to deceive both the tempter and himself as to his inducement, he replied, " Sir Robert, you have lately served some of my particular friends; and when my wife was last at court, the King was very gracious to her, which must have happened at your instance. I should therefore think myself very ungrateful *(putting the bank bill into his pocket)* if I were to refuse the favour you are now pleased to ask me."

The fondness of George II. for his electorate of Hanover was so well-known that a short time previous to the war with France, the charge d'affaires of that nation, M. Bussy, had the hardihood to insult the King on two different occasions; once at Hanover, and again at London. Whilst at Hanover, and the King was making strong representations to him respecting the part which France was taking in the affairs of Germany, the insolent Frenchman made no reply, except a repetition of the words, " Mais, Sire, Monsieur de Maillebois!" as if he had been holding a rod over a child; that general being then hovering about the electorate with an army of 40,000 men. In London, when the King asked him, " What news at Paris?" the fellow had the impertinence to reply, " Sire, il y gêle,"—*May it please your Majesty, it freezes there.* When called to account for this, his excuse was yet worse than his original

impertinence, for he said he was *absent!*—but Monsieur Bussy's nation, of which he was a worthy representative, was soon taught manners by the wisdom of a Pitt, and the gallantry of a Hawke and a Wolfe!

His affection for the electorate was also sometimes taken advantage of by his own ministers, particularly on one occasion, when Lord Granville, asking him to confer the residentiaryship of St. Paul's on Dr. (well known as Demosthenes) Taylor, the King hesitated, saying that he understood the preferment was always given to a scholar of note. His lordship immediately answered that the doctor's fame for learning was celebrated all over *Germany!* The appointment was instantly conceded*.

* Amongst other anecdotes connected with church preferment is a remarkable one recorded by the venerable Bishop Newton respecting Dr. John Thomas, Bishop of Salisbury, and Dr. John Thomas, Bishop of Winchester, whose circumstances were such that it was not easy to distinguish them. Somebody speaking of Dr. Thomas, it was asked, Which Dr. Thomas do you mean? Dr. John Thomas.—They are both named John. Dr. Thomas, who has a living in the city.—They have both livings in the city. Dr. Thomas, who is chaplain to the King.—They are both chaplains to the King. Dr. Thomas who is a very good preacher.—They are both very good preachers. Dr. Thomas, who squints.—They both squint; for Dr. Thomas, Bishop of Winchester, handsome as he was, yet had a little cast with one of his eyes.—Dr. Thomas, Bishop of Salisbury, succeeded Dr. Lockyer both in the chaplainship at Ham-

Hasty and rather obstinate in his disposition, he often found it difficult to yield to the state reasons, or other reasons of policy, by which the cabinet were generally guided. On one occasion he had

burgh and the deanery of Peterborough. The manner of his rise and preferment, as he has himself been heard more than once to relate it, is curious.—Dr. Thomas was accustomed, as well as Dr. Lockyer, to go from Hamburgh to pay his duty at Hanover every year that the King came over. After some time, his Majesty George II. asked him whether, if he could obtain any preferment from the crown, he would not gladly leave Hamburgh to settle in England? He replied, that his Majesty's father had made him the like gracious offer, and he had declined it, because then there were several eminent merchants and factors who were very kind and liberal to him, and he lived among them much to his ease and satisfaction: but now the case was altered—most of his old friends had died or were removed, a new race was springing up, and he should think himself very happy to return to England under his Majesty's patronage and protection. "Well," said the King, "consider with yourself, and consult with my Lord Harrington (who was the secretary then attending upon the King), and he will let me know your wants and wishes." The next time the King saw him, he said, "My Lord Harrington informs me, that you desire to have one of the royal prebends; but it is not in my power to grant you any such thing; my ministers lay their hands upon them all, as necessary for my service: but I will tell you what I will do for you—they do not much mind livings, and I will give you the first living that falls, and then I will make you one of my chaplains, and then the next time I come to Hanover, you shall come over with me as my chaplain, and then if a prebend or deanery should happen to fall, you would have a good chance of suc-

promised a vacant situation, of some consequence, to one whom he wished to oblige; but the cabinet were as obstinate as himself, and resolved to carry their point: accordingly, the next time when they

ceeding to it; and this is the only way wherein I can procure any such thing for you." Agreeably to this plan, Dr. Thomas returned to England; had the living of St. Vedast, Foster-lane; was appointed one of the King's chaplains; and the spring ensuing, when the King was making preparations for Hanover, he sent word privately to Dr. Thomas to prepare himself, and to have every thing in readiness to be put on board such a day. Before he went he thought it proper to wait upon Bishop Gibson, who was then the ecclesiastical minister, and to acquaint him with the King's order. "You go to Hanover!" said the bishop, "it cannot be: Dr. Clagget is to go to Hanover: it was fixed and settled some time ago." Dr. Thomas answered, that he had received his Majesty's express command, and should certainly obey it: and accordingly Dr. Thomas attended the King to Hanover, and not Dr. Clagget. It happened in the course of the summer that the deanery of Peterborough became vacant, and Dr. Thomas had the honour to kiss his Majesty's hand for it. At the same time the Duke of Newcastle wrote to him from England, that he had in a manner engaged the Deanery to Dr. Newcome, the master of St. John's College, in Cambridge, and should be greatly obliged to Dr. Thomas if he would be so good as to wave his turn: the duke would certainly procure for him another deanery, or the first residentiaryship of St. Paul's that should become vacant. Dr. Thomas wrote in answer, that as the King had been graciously pleased to give him the deanery, he could not with any decency or good manners decline his Majesty's favour, but that his Grace might vacate the deanery, by giving him a better, as soon as ever he pleased.

sat in the palace, in an apartment next to the King's closet, a blank appointment was drawn up, in order that they might pay to his Majesty the empty compliment of asking what name should be inserted in the commission. The difficulty was, however, to fix upon the individual member who should brave the royal anger in the closet; and the choice fell upon the witty Lord Chesterfield, who boldly, but respectfully entered the closet, with a pen in one hand, and the blank commission in the other, and enquired of the King to whom he pleased that the vacancy should be given. "Give it to the Devil!" replied the angry Monarch; when Chesterfield very coolly prepared to fill up the blank, but stopped short, saying, "Would your Majesty please that this commission should run in the usual form—"To our trusty and well-beloved cousin, the *Devil!*" The clouded brow was instantly relaxed into a smile—and the cabinet carried their point.

Though certainly not avaricious, yet this Monarch had a just sense of the value of money, of which he gave an instance one evening whilst passing through his own apartments to those of the Countess of Yarmouth, as was his frequent custom after dinner. At this time, accompanied only by a page, and having a small canvas bag of guineas in his hand, which he accidentally dropped, one of the guineas rolled under the door of a

closet where wood was generally kept for the use of the bedchamber. After deliberately picking up the rest of the money, he missed a guinea, and guessing where it had gone to, he said to the page; "Come, we must find this guinea; help me with the wood." To work they both went, and in a short time found the lost coin, when his Majesty observed to the page, "Well! you have worked hard; there is the guinea for your labour. I would have nothing lost, and I would have every body paid for his work."

The attempt, which was made to deprive the inhabitants of Richmond of enjoying the Royal demesnes, did not meet with his approbation. Indeed there is an anecdote of him, that coming one day to the gardens and finding the gates locked, whilst some decently dressed persons were standing on the outside, he called to the gardener in a great passion, and told him to open the gate instantly, adding, "My subjects, Sir, walk where they please." To the same gardener, who complained that visitors tore up the flower-roots and shrubs in the gardens, he hastily exclaimed, "Plant more then, you blockhead!"

His kindness towards the army and navy was often thwarted by his ministers: partly through financial difficulties, and partly perhaps through false policy. On some occasions he, however, would act for himself, especially in the case of a

young lieutenant of marines, who lost both legs at the siege of Fort St. Philip in Minorca, and who, on being sent home, memorialized in vain for some trifling addition to his half-pay. Major Mason, a friend of his, was determined that the case should be known to the King, and accordingly took care to post the youth in the guard-room at St. James's, supported by two brother officers, in hopes of attracting the King's attention as he passed through to the drawing-room. On his Majesty's approach, the crippled officer exclaimed, "Behold, great sire, a man who refuses to bend his knee to you; for he has lost both in your service." The King, struck by the incident, stopped and demanded what had been done for him, and on hearing that half-pay was his sole remuneration, exclaimed, "Fye! fye on't! but let me see you next levee-day." The officer failed not to obey the command, when the King, with his own hand, presented him with 500*l.* as smart money, and an order for a pension of 200*l.* per annum for life.

Another anecdote is related of general Otway, who had been many years in the service with the rank of colonel, during which time several junior colonels had got regiments over his head. His friends frequently entreated him to state his services and to petition the King: he resisted their importunities for a considerable time; but being at length prevailed upon, he desired the chaplain

of the regiment he served in to draw up a petition, which being done and sent to the colonel, he took notice that it concluded with the words "and your petitioner shall ever pray." He sent for the chaplain, and told him that he had made a mistake, and imagined he was presenting a petition for himself by the manner in which he had concluded it. He desired the petition to be altered from the usual conclusion: and insisted that the word *pray* was unfit to come from an officer. It was to no purpose that he was informed of the usual mode of drawing the prayer of all petitions; he would not give up his opinion upon the matter, but insisted it should run thus, "and your petitioner shall ever *fight*." He took the petition to court and presented it to the King, who was pleased with the novelty of the conclusion, and the honest bluntness of the officer; and in the course of a few weeks a regiment became vacant, which was given to Otway, in opposition to ministers, who had promised to provide for a friend possessing some interest in parliament.

Lord Hervey having been very unaccountably passed over in a general promotion of officers, the King took notice of the omission, and inquired the reason of it, on which the minister endeavoured to excuse himself by saying that his lordship was mad. "Is he so?" said his Majesty; "then for that very reason he shall be advanced and em-

ployed too, that he may have an opportunity of biting some of my generals."

George II. and his Queen preferred the Haymarket Theatre to the one in Lincoln's-inn-fields, which latter was notwithstanding always the most fashionable and crowded; so that Lord Chesterfield coming into it one night, and being asked if he had been at the other house,—"Yes," said he, "but there was nobody there except the King and Queen; and as I thought they might be talking business, I came away!"

On another occasion, George II. was sitting at the theatre, and the performers had delayed their appearance, to the great annoyance of the audience; but shortly after, to their great amusement, a cat leaped upon the stage. Two gentlemen were sitting next each other in the boxes, one of whom was known to be as enthusiastic a tory, as the other was a rigid, but loyal, whig. The tory observed that this made good the old adage, that a cat might look at the King.—"Yes," replied the whig, with consummate gravity, "and a very good King too!" To which the tory, a little nettled, replied, mimicking his gravity, "Yes; and a very good cat too!"

In regard to his real esteem and affection for the deceased Queen, we can here add, on the authority of an intelligent writer, that his Majesty left a paper of directions, as to the manner

in which his body should be treated; expressly ordering that the coffin should be so constructed that one side of it might be taken out, in the same mode as that of Queen Caroline had been fitted, in order that in the vault means might be taken so to place the two bodies as if in one coffin. These directions, it is understood, were punctually complied with.

SECTION III.

1760—1770.

Measures of the new King—Patriotic Declarations—Marriage—Coronation—Political arrangements—Birth of George IV.—Anecdotes political and domestic, &c. &c. &c.

The intelligence of the royal demise reached the youthful heir, whilst riding on horseback in the vicinity of Kew accompanied by Lord Bute, through some unofficial channel; and was immediately afterwards confirmed by the arrival of Mr. Pitt, then secretary of state, and in fact prime minister. The party then rode back to Kew palace, and Mr. Pitt returned to town. On the ensuing morning the youthful Monarch set off for St. James's accompanied by Lord Bute; and, on his arrival, was presented by Mr. Pitt with a paper on which were written a few sentences which the minister hinted might be proper to repeat to the privy council. The King thanked Mr. Pitt for this considerate measure, but observed that he

had previously viewed the subject with some attention, and had already prepared the heads of what he should say at the council table. This, it is true, was not a dismissal of the minister; but Mr. Pitt could not help seeing that Lord Bute had been beforehand with him in gaining the royal confidence. That Lord Bute should have done so is not surprising, when we read the details of Lord Melcombe and of Sir N. W. Wraxall, respecting the jealous attention with which the preceding ten years of his life had been watched by that nobleman in unison with an elevated female.

The council assembled at Carleton-house, where the King met them; and it is a fact that although at first he appeared agitated and embarrassed by the novelty of his situation, and indeed the want of personal acquaintance with his grandfather's ministers, yet he soon acquired self-possession, and gave great satisfaction by his manners and conduct.

In his address to this first council, he lamented the death of his grandfather, especially at that critical juncture; modestly alluded to his own insufficiency, but declared his determination to follow the impulse of the tenderest affection for his native country, depending upon the advice of the lords of the council, and resolving to make it the happiness of his life to promote the glory and welfare of the empire, to preserve and strengthen

the constitution in both church and state, and to prosecute the existing just and necessary war with all vigour, but with a due regard to the bringing it to an honourable and lasting peace. "The loss that I and the nation have sustained," said he, "by the death of the King my grandfather, would have been severely felt at any time; but, coming at so critical a juncture, and so unexpected, it is by many circumstances augmented, and the weight now falling on me much increased. I feel my own insufficiency to support it as I wish; but, animated by the tenderest affection for my native country, and depending on the advice, experience, and abilities of your lordships, and the support and assistance of every honest man, I enter with cheerfulness into this arduous situation, and shall make it the business of my life to promote in every thing the glory and happiness of these kingdoms, to preserve and strengthen the constitution both in church and state; and, as I mount the throne in the midst of an expensive, but just and necessary war, I shall endeavour to prosecute it in the manner the most likely to bring on an honourable and lasting peace in concert with my allies."

This declaration was received with marked attention on the part of the lords of the council, who requested, agreeable to form, that it might be printed, for the information of the nation at large.

On this occasion also, the King took notice of a law which required that on his accession to the throne he should take and subscribe the oath relating to the security of the church of Scotland, observing that he was now ready to do so on this first opportunity. This ceremony was accordingly performed before the council, the members of which had been previously sworn of the new privy council, the former having expired with the deceased Monarch.

On the 26th, the ceremony of proclamation took place; first before Saville-house, where the officers of state, nobility, and privy-councillors, were present, with the officers at arms, all on foot; after which, the heralds mounted on horseback, proceeding to Charing-cross, Temple-bar, the end of Wood-street, Cheapside, and the Royal Exchange, accompanied by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Duke of Leeds, and Lord Falmouth; at all which stations proclamations took place with the usual solemnities.

On the ensuing day, the 27th, his Majesty held a council at St. James's, when his next brother, the Duke of York, and Lord Bute, were sworn in as members; the latter being introduced as groom of the stole in the new royal household, which office he held in the Prince's establishment previous to the accession. The parliament was also prorogued to the 13th of November.

The usual orders were given for court and general mourning, the latter being directed to be the deepest possible, long cloaks only excepted; it is also worthy of remark, that the mourning for the army and navy was respectively black facings to regimentals and uniforms.

It was now fully understood, that the late Monarch had left a will; but such an instrument being constitutionally illegal, it was never put in force: yet the Duke of Cumberland certainly took the opinion of counsel upon that subject.*

On the 28th, the Lord Mayor and Aldermen waited on his Majesty at Saville-house, with a congratulatory address, and condolence upon the recent national loss: in which they declare their peculiar happiness to see that the youthful Monarch's heart was truly English, he having discovered in his earliest years the warmest attention to the laws and constitution, so excellently formed as to give liberty to the people while they confer power upon the Prince, being thus a mutual support of the prerogative of the crown, and of the rights of the subject.

This municipal address further stated that his Majesty was then in possession of the united hearts of all his people; happily too, at a time when the honour and credit of the nation, through

* Nichols' "Recollections" contain some curious gossip respecting this circumstance.

the courage and activity of our fleets and armies, were in the highest extent, and when there were no divisions at home to obstruct the continuance of measures which had already carried terror to our enemies abroad. The conclusion expressed a conviction that his Majesty, having the true interests of the nation at heart, would use all his power in protecting the trade, rights, and liberties of his subjects.

The King's answer was short, but expressive.

"I have great satisfaction in the early marks you have given me of your zeal and affection for me and my government.

"And I return you my hearty thanks. You may rely on my tender concern for the rights, trade, and manufactures of the City of London."

The reception was most gracious; the deputation kissed hands, and two of the Aldermen were knighted.

On the 29th a notice was issued from the Lord Chamberlain's Office, that drawing-rooms would be held on Wednesdays, and on Sundays after divine service; but the latter arrangement, we believe, was very soon afterwards set aside by the good sense and decorum of his Majesty himself, who thought the Sabbath-day might be employed to better purposes than court etiquette.

The usual proclamation was also issued, requiring all persons in office to proceed in the execution

of their respective duties, and to take the oaths to the new Sovereign as soon as convenient.

The example of the Mayor and Aldermen was followed up by the Common-council on the 30th of October: and on the 31st the first stone of Blackfriars bridge was laid, a coeval memorial of the new reign.

The first attendance of the new Monarch at public worship was on the 2d of November, when he went in a chair privately from Saville-house to St. James's chapel. The sermon on this occasion was preached by the Rev. Dr. Nicholls, master of the Temple, who chose his text from Psalm xxiii. v. 2. "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil."

On the ensuing day the Court of Lieutenancy for the City of London waited upon the King, and were graciously received; and on the 4th his Majesty removed from Saville-house to St. James's palace, where he occupied the apartments formerly inhabited by William III. The Princess Dowager continued her residence at Leicester-house. The Duke of Cumberland and the Princess Amelia gave up their royal apartments at St. James's, as did also the Countess of Yarmouth, who exchanged her splendid but meretricious establishment for a house in Dover Street. Addresses now poured in from all quarters. The Merchants of London paid a tribute of respect to the memory of the deceased

Monarch, for his constant encouragement of commerce during peace, and the unparalleled extent and security which it had enjoyed during the existing war; adding to this their confidence in the new Monarch, and their own determination to support public credit, so necessary for the vindication both of regal and popular rights.

The King told them in reply that he was fully sensible that the wealth of the empire, though amidst the expenses of such an arduous war, was principally the result of trade and commerce, which he would protect and encourage to the utmost of his power.

On the 18th of November his Majesty first met the parliament, which he opened with a speech that embodied the preceding declaration; expressing his determination to adhere to the existing system of policy, both at home and abroad, and adding the well known "Born and educated in this country, I glory in the name of *Briton;* and the peculiar happiness of my life will ever consist in promoting the welfare of a people, whose loyalty and warm affection to me I consider as the greatest and most permanent security of my throne." Mr. Nichols observes that the ex-chancellor, the Earl of Hardwick, censured this expression as an insult to the memory of the departed Monarch; but he adds, that the nation was pleased with the speech.

It was remarked by many old people that there never had been so great an assemblage of almost all ranks, both in the park and in the houses, than to see his Majesty upon this occasion in state; nor did they ever remember so much unanimity in the testification of public applause. The King too appeared delighted, expressing his satisfaction both in countenance and behaviour, bowing from the coach-window to the various greetings of the people.

When he went to the theatre in the evening, the house was crowded, having been filled as early as three o'clock, and many thousands were sent away disappointed.

This early royal notice of the national drama, is in perfect consonance with the observations of a judicious writer, (New Monthly Magazine, April 1820, p. 386,) that the King was neither an anchoret nor a recluse; to his taste and good judgment the amateurs of the theatre owe most of those improvements which constitute the boast of modern days. No audience could now tolerate scenes which Dryden and Congreve did not blush to avow. And when a desire of rational improvement had once visited the green room, it extended its influence to minor matters; even the costume of the stage underwent reform; Cato no longer personified the stern Roman in a full-bottomed peruke and a flowing morning-gown; nor did

Macbeth, the Scot, continue to consult the witches at their caldron, or startle at the ghost of Banquo, in the parade uniform of a modern general.

Some alarm was excited for his Majesty by an accident which took place in Hyde Park on the 2d of December, whilst mounting his horse; for the animal suddenly rearing up, the King was forced to throw himself off, but happily escaped without any serious hurt; and, being bled immediately, he was sufficiently well to attend Covent Garden in the evening to see Hamlet, being his own first appearance there in his new character.

On the 9th of December, the King went to the House of Peers, and gave his first Royal assent, several acts being then prepared; particularly for the support of his Majesty's household and of the honour and dignity of the crown of Great Britain. All his yeomen of the guards, footmen, &c. were in new liveries for this occasion; the show was splendid, and rapturously hailed by the surrounding crowd *.

* The new state coach, built for those occasions, was an object of great interest to the eye of taste. Its decorations were most brilliant, and executed by the first artists of the time. A periodical work of great literary merit, observes, in regard to the painting of this vehicle, that it appears that this branch of the arts, for so it was reckoned, was at one time a source of no small employment to the original royal academicians. The influence of fashion over the conveniencies and comforts of life has in no article been more arbitrary and capricious than in the decora-

On the 23d he went to the House of Peers to give assent to a bill enabling himself to be governor of the South Sea company; and in the evening he made his second appearance at Drury-Lane theatre to see King John.

Christmas-day was kept as a high festival at court; and after a sermon preached by the Arch-

tions of the coaches and chariots of our nobility and gentry. Since the days of Queen Elizabeth, those vehicles have been improved to a degree of comfort and elegance which the greatest admirers of antiquity will not wish to see reduced to their primitive simplicity: but while the improvements have been regular and progressive, their ornamental decorations have been various and changeable. At the commencement of the last century the pannels of coaches were painted with historical subjects, which were often but little suited to the character or profession of the owners. To this circumstance Gay alludes in his little poem of "Trivia, or the Art of Walking the Streets,"

"The tricking gamester insolently rides,
With loves and graces by his chariot sides."

After this fashion ceased, the pannels were painted simply with the arms and supporters displayed upon a large mantle; but in a few years the mantle was laid aside, and a more fanciful shew of flowers intermixed with ornaments, and sometimes genii, were the attendants of the family honours, and frequently a wreath or bunch of various flowers unincumbered with any other representation than the arms in the centre. It was in this last method that Baker, the flower-painter, was considered as pre-eminent, particularly by those who laboured in the same vocation; and it must be allowed that his productions had considerable merit, although they were too much marked by that sharpness of touch peculiar to those who have practised in this line.

bishop of York, his Majesty received the sacrament from the Bishop of Durham, presenting at the same time, a byzant, or wedge of gold, for the benefit of the poor*.

Soon after the accession a proclamation was published for the encouragement of piety and virtue, and for preventing and punishing vice,

Mr. Cotton was the first herald-painter who ventured to correct the bad manner of painting the supporters of coats of arms, which had long been the practice of his predecessors, whose representations of animals were considered as heraldic fictions rather than the resemblances of animated nature. The opulent coach-makers having now taken this branch of decoration into their own hands, the herald-painters are become no more than their journeymen, consequently the most ingenious of them have no stimulus to exert their talents or seek improvement, when neither honour nor profit can be obtained by their exertions. Hence it is, that while carriages have been in the highest degree improved both for elegance and comfort, the painted decorations have degenerated into a state of frivolity and meanness, from which it is hardly possible for them to emerge. Cipriani was employed soon after the accession of his present Majesty to paint the state coach.

* Bishop Sherlock, not being able to wait upon the new Monarch along with the rest of the prelates, addressed to him the following very interesting epistle:

"SIRE,—Amidst the congratulations that surround the throne, permit me to lay before your Majesty a heart, which, though oppressed with age and infirmity, is no stranger to the joys of my country.

"When the melancholy news of the late King's demise reached us, it naturally led us to consider the loss we had sustained, and upon what our hopes of futurity depended. The

profaneness, and immorality; stating the royal determination more particularly to notice those persons employed about the court; and calling upon all civil, military, and naval officers, to enforce the laws in that respect, and themselves to set the example.

The virtuous continence of the Monarch himself, at this period, is highly deserving of praise and admiration, proceeding, not from any coldness of constitution, but from a true sense of honour and decorum. Anecdotes, indeed, have been told of a fair quakeress, who shared his heart and bed;

first part excited grief, and put all the tender passions into motion: but the second brought life and spirit with it, and wiped the tears from every face. Oh! how graciously did the providence of God provide for a successor able to bear the weight of government in that unexpected event.

"You, sir, are the person whom the people ardently desire: which affection of theirs is happily returned by your Majesty's declared concern for their prosperity, and let nothing disturb this mutual consent. Let there be but one contest between them—whether the King loves the people best, or the people him: and may it be a long, very long, contest;—may it never be decided; but let it remain doubtful: and may the paternal affection on the one side, and the filial affection on the other, be had in perpetual remembrance.

"This will probably be the last time I shall ever trouble your Majesty. I beg leave to express my warmest wishes and prayers on your behalf. May the God of heaven and earth have you always under his protection, and direct you to seek his honour and glory in all you do; and may you reap the benefit of it by an increase of happiness in this world and in the next."

but of this we believe that there is no positive certainty. But we do know that he felt a very potent partiality for the loveliest female of high rank at that time in the kingdom, the daughter of a ducal family, descended from royalty, though with the bend sinister, (married afterwards to a baronet and divorced) yet neither did he attempt to seduce her, nor think of raising her to the throne, but subdued his penchant by the force of good sense, and a due regard to the claims of public duty.

The chit-chat of the day, as recorded in one of Horace Walpole's letters, will be the best picture of his Majesty's conduct, on an accession of power so trying to a youthful mind.—He says, "The new reign dates with great propriety and decency; the civilest letter to Princess Emily; the greatest kindness to the Duke; the utmost respect to the dead body. No changes to be made but those absolutely necessary, as the household, &c. —and what some will think the most unnecessary, in the representative of power." He adds, "there is great dignity and grace in the King's manner. I don't say this, like my dear Madam de Sevigné, because he was civil to me; but the part is well acted." "The young King has all the appearance of being amiable. There is great grace to temper much dignity, and good nature which breaks out on all occasions."

Some changes did take place, however, in the household, which fell heavy upon the humbler ranks, but for which the young Monarch ought not to have been personally blamed, his attention being necessarily confined to the higher departments.

On this subject we have seen a whimsical anecdote which states that, during one of his early walks in the country he entered a cottage where an old woman was busily engaged in some household work, with whom he commenced a conversation; the good woman, her back being turned towards him, supposing her visitor to be some servant from the palace. In the course of her chat, she complained that she had seen better days in the old King's time, but that the young King had turned every thing topsy turvy—adding "I suppose you are turned out too."

The King did not explain; but his monitress was immediately reinstated.

The jealousy of Lord Bute began to shew itself very suddenly in the city; for even in the early part of November, Walpole tells us, "The city, however, have a mind to be out of humour; a paper has been fixed in the Royal Exchange with these words—'No petticoat government, no Scotch minister, no Lord George Sackville'—two hints totally unfounded, and the other scarce true. No petticoat ever governed less; it is left at Leicester-

house—for the King himself, he seems all good nature, and wishing to satisfy every body; all his speeches are obliging. I saw him on the throne, where he is graceful and genteel; sits with dignity, and reads his answers to addresses well." Again, "The first night the King went to the play, which was civilly on a Friday, not on the opera night as he used to do, the whole audience sang 'God save the King' in chorus."

Walpole seems fully of opinion that the King's wish was to join all parties in a patriotic love of their country; but he observes, "it is unpardonable to put an end to all faction, when it is not for factious purposes,"—adding, "this is a very short letter: I fear this reign will soon furnish longer. When the last——could be beloved, a young man with a good heart has little chance of being so. Moreover, I have a maxim, that the extinction of party is the origin of faction!"

On this subject also, Mr. Nichols observes that the King's attention to the Tories tended much to increase his popularity; for though, during the two preceding reigns, a considerable portion of the nation had been proscribed under the name of Tories, on the principle of their being attached to the exiled family, which was certainly partly true, yet, as he notices, many had been included under that title, merely from their opposition to the Walpole and Pelham ad-

ministrations. The Pelham party certainly were not personal favourites of the youthful Monarch; indeed the writer before quoted, expressly says that His Majesty, at his accession, had *two objects* —the first to descry the Pelham faction; the second, to put an end to the war*. Two points for

* Thus entering on a new reign, it will not be irrelevant to take some notice of the actual state of the empire at that period, with some, necessary anticipative, comparison in regard to its close. On this subject then we shall offer some details from a judicious writer in an esteemed periodical work, (New Monthly Magazine for April 1820, p. 389,) considering this place more free for such a recapitulation than its close, where all feeling turns more on the public loss of a revered monarch, than on the glories of his reign.

It may then be premised, that according to the best authorities which can be obtained, the population of Britain in the year 1760, was not more than 8,000,000: in 1811 (the last census,) it was 12,353,000: to which must be added the population of Ireland, taken at above 4,000,000, with the absentees from Britain in our various colonies and dependencies, making a total of eighteen millions: and forming, with the natives of those distant dependencies, a grand total of more than sixty millions of souls, who at this moment avow allegiance to the British crown.

More striking demonstration of the power and population of any people could not be given, than was rendered evident by facts a few years back, when the public mind was impressed with a serious sense of danger. It is true there was no such occasion in the year 1760, or, indeed, at any other time, to call out such formidable hosts with a view to deter an enemy. The boasts of France in the war of 1756, to invade England, were beneath contempt; especially when placed in comparison with

which he was more abused than for any other act of his life, and leading in some measure to the affair of Wilkes—and perhaps of Junius also.

1761.

That the King should have felt a partiality for Lady Sarah L—— is not extraordinary, if she

the threats of the Imperial Napoleon. What other country, of no greater extent, could exhibit a force of more than a million of men in arms.

The MILITARY FORCE of Britain was in 1812—

British Army - - - - -	301,000
Local Militia in Britain - - -	196,446
Volunteers in Britain - - - -	88,000
Militia and Yeomanry in Ireland - -	80,000
——— in the Colonies - - -	25,000
Foreign Corps in British service - -	30,741
	721,187
NAVAL FORCES.—Navy - - -	147,252
Marines - - -	32,668
	901,007
EAST INDIES.—British Forces - -	20,000
Native Troops - -	140,000
Marine - - - -	913
	1,061,920

The comparison between the ROYAL NAVY of 1760 and that existing during the late war, is equally to the advantage of the latter: it is enough to say, under this article, that the British navy proved itself more than a match for the whole maritime force of Europe. It destroyed, or blockaded, the fleets of

really was so lovely as described by Walpole in one of his letters.—" I was exceedingly amused on Tuesday night (in January, 1761): there was a

France, Holland, Denmark, and Spain; and when Russia for a while assumed the character of an enemy, it met the fleet of Russia, also, with alacrity and success. The average number of ships during the war was about equal to the following statement, which is founded on a report towards the conclusion of hostilities:

At sea, ships of the line - - - -	99
Fifties, &c. not reckoned of the line - -	14
Frigates of various sizes - - - -	133
Sloops, and lesser vessels - - - -	144
Bombs - - - - - - - -	6
Brigs, &c. - - - - - -	139
Cutters - - - - - - -	33
Schooners, &c. - - - - - -	66

Making a total, at sea, of more than six hundred vessels; which, those in ordinary, building, repairing, &c. raised to a grand total of more than eleven hundred. To man this navy required a force of nearly one hundred and sixty thousand seamen and marines; whereas, in the war which raged when his Majesty came to the throne, seventy or seventy-five thousand was thought to be the utmost that the nation could furnish.

That the Mercantile Navy of Britain has increased in a wonderful ratio, needs no other proof than the necessity felt by our merchants for enlarging the principal ports of the kingdom, by means of extensive docks, and other accommodations—as at Hull, Liverpool, London, and elsewhere. These were found to be absolutely indispensable, as well by the West India trade as by the East India trade: and, in fact, they were indispensable for the reception of vessels from every quarter of the globe. In 1760, the amount of British shipping was 471,241

play at Holland-house, acted by children; not all children, for Lady Sarah L—— and Lady Susan Strangeways played the women. It was Jane

tons; in 1812, it is stated at 2,163,094 tons; to which add the shipping of Ireland, about 250,000 tons: the whole valued at not less than twenty-seven millions sterling!

But, not to extend this article beyond its due limits, we insert a table of our NATIONAL FINANCES, as they stood in 1815: in which the reader will easily distinguish the products of the different departments, when in full action:

CUSTOMS.	*5th Jan.* 1815.
Consolidated Customs - - -	4,938,299
Annual Duties - - - - -	2,618,001
War Taxes - - - -	3,503,024
Total Customs - - - -	11,059,324
EXCISE.	
Consolidated Excise - - -	18,311,172
Annual Duties - - - - -	479,898
War Taxes - - - - - -	6,354,541
Total Excise - -	25,145,611
Stamps - - - - - -	5,598,573
Post Office - - - - -	1,450,000
Assessed Taxes - - - -	6,411,671
Property Tax - - - -	14,218,333
Land Taxes - - - - -	1,129,223
Miscellaneous - - - - -	417,246
	29,225,046
Total Net Revenue -	65,429,981

Shore: Charles Fox was Hastings; the two girls were delightful, and acted with so much nature and simplicity, that they appeared the very things they represented. Lady Sarah was more beautiful than you can conceive, and her very awkwardness gave an air of truth to the sham of the part, and the antiquity of the time, which was kept up by her dress taken out of Montfaucon. Lady Susan was dressed from Jane Seymour. I was infinitely more struck with the last scene between the two women, than ever I was when I have seen it on the stage. When Lady Sarah was in white, with her hair about her ears, and on the ground, no Magdalen by Corregio was half so lovely and expressive."

Whatever rational objections may and do exist against private theatricals, it is not unfair to suppose that the practice at that period may have had some effect in preparing public speakers for the grand national Theatre of oratory.

Indeed there can be no doubt that his Majesty's style of speaking at this period owed much to the histrionic lessons of Quin in boyhood, as already

We do not ask, What nation in the world, beside Britain, could have supported such demands on its products and commerce, year after year; but, we ask, whether in the year 1760 it would have been thought possible that the nation could have endured burdens so heavy? Had the ablest financiers of that day the smallest conception of such an extensive revenue?

recorded; for it was said of him, both then and afterwards, that he recited a speech, or delivered an oration, with more true modulation and eloquence than most men in his dominions; so that his speeches from the throne to the two Houses of Parliament were always considered as specimens of beautiful elocution. This was the more remarkable from the well remembered, and often noticed fact, that in common conversation he spoke with a rapidity which sometimes made him unintelligible to those who were not familiarized to his peculiar mode of expression.

It appears, however, that the King did not set any very high value upon oratory; at least he once observed to an eminent literary character, eminent also as a politician, that he considered it as carried to a height far beyond its real use, hinting his fear that the desire of excelling in this accomplishment made many young men of genius neglect more solid branches of knowledge.—"I am sure," added he, "that the rage for public speaking, and the extravagant length to which some of our most popular orators carry their harangues in parliament, is very detrimental to the national business, and I wish that it may not, in the end, prove injurious to the public peace!"

His Majesty's opinion on pulpit oratory was equally decided, for one of the first acts performed by the young Monarch after his accession to the

throne, was to issue an order prohibiting any of the clergy, who should be called to preach before him, from paying him any compliment in their discourses. His Majesty was led to this from the fulsome adulation which Dr. Thomas Wilson, prebendary of Westminster, thought proper to deliver in the Chapel Royal, and for which, instead of thanks, he received from his royal auditor so pointed a reprimand that the reverend orator from that moment became a flaming patriot.

In fact he the next day sent a message to that clergyman which should be written in letters of gold, as a lesson for Kings as well as clergy; apprising him, that "he went to church to hear God praised, and not himself," and desiring him to forbear in future from such improper topics.

The doctor took part with John Wilkes, was made liveryman of the joiners' company, and lavished large sums upon Catherine Macaulay, the republican historian, in whose honour he was silly enough to cause a marble monument to be erected in his church at Walbrook, though before he died he caused it to be removed, not indeed so much from a sense of the impropriety of the thing, as out of resentment to the lady, who had displeased him by her marriage.

Connected with these facts seems the following announcement as early as 1761.

"Oxford, July 11. The subjects appointed for

the current year, for two orations to be spoken in the Theatre for the prizes given by the Rev. Dr. Thomas Wilson, prebendary of Westminster, are, for the Latin oration, 'Salus populi, suprema lex.' For the English oration, 'Advantages of a safe, honourable, and lasting peace.'"

As the law then stood, the parliament continued its functions for six months after the royal demise, and its conclusion was marked by several important acts, especially that by which his Majesty accepted 800,000*l.* per annum, to be paid out of the aggregate fund in lieu of the uncertain funds which then were answerable for the civil list; a bargain by which the nation has not lost, though the crown has been benefited.

The King also rendered himself highly popular by his patriotic and constitutional conduct respecting the Judges, who, though they held their places during good behaviour, by an act soon after the Revolution, yet that only extended to the life of the Monarch who signed the commissions. But his Majesty not only renewed their judicial patents as they stood at the royal demise, but also on the 3d of March went down to the Parliament, and in a most gracious speech recommended a law for making those commissions perpetual during life and good behaviour, notwithstanding any demise of the crown; a measure which gave great satisfaction, not only to both Houses of the legislature,

but to the nation at large, who were not indifferent to the fact, that the power to remove a judge remaining as a prerogative to the crown was detrimental to the complete independence of the judicial office.

On the ensuing day the whole ermined bench waited upon his Majesty to return thanks, and were most graciously received; and the House of Commons having passed some declaratory resolution, the necessary steps were immediately taken to pass them into a law.

The parliament was dissolved on the 19th of March, and writs soon after issued for the new elections; on which occasion the patriotic Monarch took an early opportunity of informing all his ministers that no money should be spent to procure the election of members favourable to the government, saying at the same time, that "he would be tried by his country." This gave occasion to the following lines:

> Tried by your country! to your people's love,
> Amiable prince, so soon appeal;
> Stay till the tender sentiments improve,
> Ripening to gratitude from zeal.
> Years hence (yet, ah! too soon) shall Britain see,
> The trial of thy virtue past,
> Who could foretel that your first wish would be
> What all believe will be your last?

In the mean time some changes took place in the cabinet. Viscount Barrington succeeded

Mr. Legge, as chancellor of the exchequer; and Lord Holdernesse resigning the secretaryship, that office was conferred upon Lord Bute, who hitherto had been groom of the stole.

In addition to his political influence, this nobleman wished to be considered as a patron of letters. His partiality to his countrymen counteracted the good effect of his intentions. His plan of engaging the Antiquarian Society to undertake a regular and complete series of the antiquities of this kingdom, in the same manner as Father Montfaucon treated "Les Antiquités de la Monarchie Françoise," was excellent, and, had he continued prime minister, would perhaps have been adopted. The following letter of Lord Bute to Lord Melcombe, will shew with what zeal he patronized the late ingenious Mr. Bentley, son of the great critical scholar of his name:—

"My dear lord,—Instead of writing to Mr. Bentley, you will permit me to address myself to your lordship. You can best inform him how I came by the ingenious performance I ventured to amuse his Majesty with. Take the trouble of adding to that account the approbation it has met with, and convey to the author the royal tribute due to merit, the trifle here enclosed.

"Permit me to assure your lordship, from my knowledge of our young Sovereign, that rewards

in his reign will never be wanting, provided proper subjects occur worthy the King's protection; above all, such as are bold enough to take the part of virtue, and force delicacy upon the stage, in spite of the barbarous scenes of our unpolished ancestors, that to the shame of their progeny continue still to please. Farewell, my dear lord.

"Believe me ever most sincerely yours, &c.

"BUTE.

"May 28, 1761."

This opinion respecting the King's intentions was certainly not premature; besides which we have a contemporary instance of the interest which he also took in the advancement of English literature, recorded in a letter from Lord Cathcart to the historic Dr. Robertson, dated in July of this year, in which that nobleman says, "Lord Bute told me the King's thoughts, as well as his own, with respect to your History of Scotland, and a wish his Majesty had expressed to see a history of England from your pen. His Lordship assured me, every source of information, which government can command, would be opened to you: and that great, laborious, and extensive as the work must be, he would take care that your encouragement should be proportioned to it."

But his Majesty's thoughts were not turned to literature alone: he felt anxious for the tranquillity

and happiness of mankind; and early in this auspicious year the overtures for peace, began and broken off in 1759, were now made with sincerity by the French court, though not concluded until 1763. For this purpose Augsburg in Germany was chosen as the seat of a general congress, with separate negotiations at Paris and London. The King, however, judged very wisely that to ensure a peace it was necessary to carry on the war; and he therefore joined heartily with the cabinet, in urging it with the greatest vigour, in which his favourite brother, the Duke of York, zealously joined as a naval officer, distinguishing himself on several occasions *.

* A handsome and loyal compliment was paid to the King himself, by a civic compliment to his Royal Highness.

July 15.—This day the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor and Committee of Common-council, followed by the Committee of the Grocers' Company, went to Saville-house, by appointment of his Royal Highness the Duke of York, to present him with the freedom of this City and of that Company: Upon which the Lord Mayor and Committee of Common-council were introduced by Major St. John, when Sir William Moreton, the recorder, paid their compliments in the following speech:—

"May it please your Royal Highness,

"The Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London, in Common-council assembled, in testimony of their dutiful affection for their illustrious Sovereign (whose peculiar glory it is to reign over a free, happy, and united people), and as a pledge of the grateful respect they bear your Royal Highness, for your early entrance into the naval service of your King

The King's wish to establish his own domestic happiness was now of course intimately connected with securing for the empire the blessing of a protestant succession. The latter was also an anxious wish of the people, and numbers, even unauthorised, were occupied in research after a lady really worthy the heart and hand of a monarch, who appeared endowed with every requisite that might promise felicity to the distinguished object of his choice, especially if one could be found with personal attractions sufficient to win his love, and amiability to retain it.

and country, the noblest and most effectual encouragement to that natural and favourite bulwark of the wealth, reputation, and independence of this commercial nation, have unanimously resolved, that your Royal Highness be humbly requested to honour this city by your acceptance of its freedom."

Whereupon the Comptroller of the City (the Chamberlain being confined with the gout) presented the freedom in a gold box to his Royal Highness, who, upon receiving the same, spoke as follows:—

"My Lord and Gentlemen,

"It is with pleasure I receive this compliment from the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Common-council of London, as a fresh instance of their duty to the King, and as a distinguishing mark of their attention to me. I shall think myself happy in any opportunity of shewing my regard to the City of London, and in promoting its trade and prosperity; and I shall always exert my best endeavours in that profession to which I belong, and which is so essentially connected with the reputation and independence of this commercial country."

With this object in view, speculators were on the look-out for some bud of beauty, as the principal requisite, paying little attention to the mental qualities; but his Majesty had very different ideas upon the subject, his good sense and penetration pointing out the mind of his future Queen as the one thing needful.

It was thus that his choice was suddenly fixed, on the perusal of the well-known epistle from the young Princess of Mecklenburg Strelitz*, written to the King of Prussia, in consequence of his

They were received in a polite, obliging manner, and all had the honour to kiss his Royal Highness's hand.

The freedom of the City of London was finely wrote on vellum by Mr. Champion, enriched with several emblematical figures on the margin thereof, with the arms of the City of London emblazoned on the top, those of the Chamberlain on the left, and the City seal affixed to the bottom.

The gold box in which it was enclosed, was of very fine workmanship, and the lid of it richly chased; the following is a description of the device thereof:—

His Royal Highness emblematically represented in the character of a Roman admiral sitting on a pile of naval stores, with a rising sun behind the City, which presented him a freedom; two figures representing Religion and Liberty in union, and Mercury as Deity of commerce by their side; a view of the sea, and Neptune triumphant, with the British cross at his trident, and the Temple of Fame on a rock at a distance; and the whole encompassed with a fishing-net, interwoven about the mouldings.

* Sophia Charlotte was the youngest of the two daughters of Charles Lewis, Duke of Mirow, by Albertine-Elizabeth,

troops having taken military occupation of her brother's dominions, where they acted as if in the country of an enemy.

daughter of Ernest Frederick, Duke of Saxe Hildburghausen. This prince, Charles Lewis, being the second son of the Duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz, entered into the imperial service at an early age, and by his noble conduct soon attained the rank of Lieutenant-general. On his marriage he went to settle at Mirow, where all his children, consisting of four sons and two daughters, were born. He died in 1751, the very year that his late Majesty lost his father; and a few months afterwards, Adolphus Frederick, the third Duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz, departed this life, when that title devolved upon the eldest son of Prince Charles Lewis, who, with his mother and all the family, removed in consequence from Mirow to Strelitz. Here the Princess Charlotte, then seven years old, received her education, under the direction of Madame de Grabow, a lady of high endowments and noble family, who, on account of her lyrical compositions, obtained the title of the German Sappho.

Besides Madame de Grabow, other persons of the first talent were employed in the instruction of her Serene Highness, who was the delight of the whole family for the sweetness of her temper, and the quickness of her genius. The principal of these tutors, Dr. Genzmer, a Lutheran divine of considerable learning, and particularly distinguished for his extensive knowledge in Natural History, was called from Stargard to Strelitz, where he resided at the palace, till the marriage of the Princess rendered his presence there no longer necessary. Under his instructions the Princess made a great progress in every polite and useful branch of knowledge. She acquired a thorough acquaintance with the French and Italian languages; while her own she wrote not only correctly, but elegantly. Of this, indeed, no stronger proof could be given than the letter which

This letter Frederick, it is said, sent over to the youthful Monarch, who no sooner perused it, than he exclaimed to Lord Hertford, "This is

she sent to the great Frederick of Prussia, congratulating him on his victory at Torgau, over Marshal Daun, November 3, 1760, when she was (not, as some of the journalists have said, thirteen years, but) sixteen years and a half old. This pathetic letter, in which she painted in glowing colours the distressed state of Mecklenburg through the ravages of the war, was to the following effect:

"May it please your Majesty,

"I am at a loss whether I should congratulate or condole with you on your late victory, since the same success, which has covered you with laurels, has overspread the country of Mecklenburg with desolation. I know, Sire, that it seems unbecoming my sex, in this age of vicious refinement, to feel for one's country, to lament the horrors of war, or wish for the return of peace. I know you may think it more properly my province to study the arts of pleasing, or to inspect subjects of a more domestic nature; but, however unbecoming it may be in me, I cannot resist the desire of interceding for this unhappy people.

"It was but a very few years ago that this territory wore the most pleasing appearance; the country was cultivated, the peasants looked cheerful, and the towns abounded with riches and festivity. What an alteration at present from such a charming scene! I am not expert at description, nor can my fancy add any horrors to the picture; but, sure, even conquerors themselves would weep at the hideous prospects now before me: the whole country, my dear country, lies one frightful waste, presenting only objects to excite terror, pity, and despair: the business of the husbandman and the shepherd are quite discontinued; the husbandman and the shepherd are become soldiers

the lady whom I shall select for my consort—here are lasting beauties—the man who has any mind may feast and not be satiated. If the disposition of the Princess but equals her refined sense, I shall be the happiest man, as I hope, with my people's concurrence, to be the greatest Monarch, in Europe!"

It must be confessed that various contradictory accounts have been given of the transactions of this period. It is well known that a match had been already under consideration in the time of George II. who wished very much to unite his grandson to a niece of the Prussian monarch, by whom that overture was most cheerfully received. The Princess Dowager of Wales, however, was extremely averse to the connexion, and the Prince

themselves, and help to ravage the soil they formerly cultivated. The towns are inhabited only by old men, women, and children; perhaps here and there a warrior, by wounds or loss of limbs rendered unfit for service, left at his door; his little children hang round him, ask an history of every wound, and grow themselves soldiers, before they find strength for the field. But this were nothing, did we not feel the alternate insolence of either army, as it happens to advance or retreat, in pursuing the operations of the campaign: it is impossible to express the confusion even those who call themselves our friends create; even those, from whom we might expect redress, oppress with new calamities. From your justice, therefore, it is that we hope relief; to you even children and women may complain, whose humanity stoops to the meanest petition, and whose power is capable of repressing the greatest injustice."

incurred his grandfather's displeasure for giving a flat denial to the proposal. In reference also to a subject already noticed, we are told by the public and private records of the times, that a suitable marriage for his Majesty was an urgent (as it was a natural) object of state policy immediately on his coming to the crown; but his known and ardent attachment to Lady Sarah L. with some manœuvres of Mr. Fox, afterwards Lord Holland, set on foot to foment that youthful passion, hastened the designs of the Princess Dowager of Wales and of the Earl of Bute to bring about the royal marriage. The Princess is said to have had in view a niece of her own, at least some Princess of the Saxe-Gotha family: but as the House of Saxe-Gotha was supposed to be afflicted with a constitutional disease, that wish was over-ruled by the cabinet. Lord Bute then sent a confidential dependant, a Scotch officer, reported to be colonel Græme, (who was afterwards appointed to be master of St. Catherine's near the Tower, an excellent place, in the peculiar gift of her Majesty,) to visit the inferior German courts, and to select from amongst them a future Queen for England. The instructions were said to be, that she should be perfect in her form, of pure blood and healthy constitution, possessed of elegant accomplishments, particularly music, to which the King

was very much attached, and of a mild and obliging disposition.

Colonel Græme found the Princess Dowager of Strelitz taking the waters at Pyrmont, and accompanied by her two daughters, with little or no appearance of parade; and where, from the freedom of communication usual at those places, and the ready means of observation, it was no difficult matter to become fully acquainted with their characters and daily habits. Their Serene Highnesses frequented the rooms, the walks, and partook of the amusements, without any distinction that should prevent colonel Græme from being an unsuspected attendant on their parties. In short, after all due communications and inquiries, the Princess Charlotte of Strelitz was chosen to be the consort of George III.

Other accounts state that the Princess Dowager had no other fears than those arising from a Prussian alliance, which was her abhorrence. When, therefore, she read the letter of the Princess of Mecklenburg, (copies of which were circulated in Germany,) she made inquiries into the character of that family, and at the same time put the letter into the hands of her son, who was so struck with it as to tell Lord Harcourt "that he had now found such a partner as he hoped to be happy with for life."

Without attempting therefore to reconcile these contradictions, we shall proceed to record that the King for some time preserved a decorous silence in his intentions until the summer of the year, when he summoned a council for the express purpose of announcing his determination on the subject; then he informed them "that having nothing so much at heart as the welfare and happiness of his people, and that, to render the same stable and permanent to posterity, being the first object of his reign, he had, ever since his accession to the throne, turned his thoughts to the choice of a princess, with whom he might find the solace of matrimony, and the comforts of domestic life: he had to announce to them, therefore, with great satisfaction, that, after the most mature reflection and fullest information, he had come to a resolution to demand in marriage the Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg Strelitz, a princess distinguished by every amiable virtue and elegant endowment, whose illustrious line had constantly shewn the firmest zeal for the protestant religion, and a particular attachment to his Majesty's family."

Such were the terms, in which his Majesty announced his royal intention to his council on the 8th of July, 1761, which was followed up by another important announcement on the 15th of the month, on which day a proclamation was published at Westminster, Temple-bar, and the Royal

Exchange, that the King's coronation would be solemnized the 22d of September.

The negotiation commenced at Strelitz, and the Earl of Harcourt, his Majesty's Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, concluded the treaty of marriage on the 15th of August following. Preparations were immediately made for the reception of the royal Bride in England.

Earl Harcourt, with the Duchesses of Ancaster and Hamilton, the two finest women of the British Court, were sent to conduct her thither; and Lord Anson was appointed to command the fleet of convoy on this important occasion.

Her Majesty rested one night, that of her arrival, upon her journey, at the house of the Earl of Abercorn, at Witham, in Essex, from whence she set out early the next morning, and arrived at the Palace of St. James's, where she was received by his Majesty and the rest of the Royal Family. At nine o'clock upon the same evening, the 7th of September, the marriage ceremony was solemnized by the Archbishop of Canterbury, in the Royal Chapel, under circumstances of appropriate splendour and respect. We shall remark it, *en passant*, as a whimsical circumstance, that Lady Sarah Lenox was among her Majesty's bride's-maids.*

* Early preparations were made, and Lord Harcourt arrived at Strelitz on the 14th of August, in quality of plenipotentiary from the King of England. On the 15th at eleven in the

Such were the nuptial ceremonies of a Monarch who, whilst in the flower of youth, unmarried, endowed with a vigorous constitution, and sur-

morning, he repaired to court, and made a formal demand of the Princess Sophia Charlotte in marriage, for the King his master: the contract was immediately signed by his Excellency, in the name of that Monarch, by the Princess affianced, and by the reigning Duke her brother. This ceremony over, it was made known to the people by the discharge of the artillery; and the Princess was complimented on the occasion, by the States of the Duchy, and Deputies from the Magistracy. Her most Serene Highness afterwards dined at a table apart, with the Princess of Schwartzburg her great aunt, and the Princess Christina Sophia her sister; M. Zesterfleth, grand marshal of the court, the Marshal Knesebeck, and the Freules of Settern and Rauchbar, waited behind her chair; M. Dewitz, privy-counsellors of legation, stood before the table, in order to place the dishes. The reigning Duke dined at a great table in a saloon, with Lord Harcourt, and several other persons of quality of both sexes. In two other apartments, four tables were served all together, with 160 covers. The garden of the palace was illuminated at night with above 4000 small lamps; the Castle-street and Market-place were also illuminated. On the 16th there was again a splendid festival at court. On the 17th her Highness, accompanied by the reigning Duke her brother, set out for Mirow. The 18th she arrived at Perleberg, where she was complimented, in the name of his Prussian Majesty, by the Count de Gotter, who wished her a happy voyage. On the 19th she continued her journey by Lentzen for Gohrde, where her most Serene Highness dined twice in public, and walked in the afternoon in the park. On the 20th, at seven o'clock in the evening, she arrived at Stade, under a general discharge of the cannon of the place, and amidst the accla-

rounded with incitements to pleasures and indulgences of every kind, even before his accession, yet resisted all these seductions until united to one to whom he soon became affectionately at-

mations of a vast number of people, both citizens and foreigners. The Burgesses of Stade were assembled under arms, and lined the streets through which her most Serene Highness passed. At nine o'clock the whole town was illuminated, and several triumphal arches were erected in the principal streets, on which were placed many small lamps and inscriptions analogous to the feast. The next night these marks of public joy were reiterated. Next morning she set out for Cuxhaven; and on the 22d, about ten in the morning, her most Serene Highness embarked on board the yacht, amidst the acclamations of the people, accompanied by the Duchesses of Ancaster and Hamilton, the Earl of Harcourt and Lord Anson. She was saluted by the whole squadron destined to convoy her to England. They were ranged on each side of the yacht. The moment she entered her cabin, she saluted the officers of the different ships, who had crowded the decks in order to have the pleasure of seeing her, who were all charmed with her affable and polite behaviour. She sailed from Cuxhaven the 28th, and arrived in the port of Harwich, on Sunday evening, Sept. 6. Her Highness continued that night, and dined the next day on board: after which she landed, and was received by the Mayor and Aldermen of Harwich in their usual formalities. About five o'clock she came to Colchester, and stopped at the house of Mr. Enew, where she was received and waited upon by Mrs. Enew and Mrs. Rebow; but Captain Best attended her with coffee, and Lieutenant John Seaber with tea. Mr. Great, of Colchester, had the honour of presenting to her Majesty, while she was at Mr. Enew's, a box of candied eringo root, a product of Colchester, with which the Royal Family are always

tached, though totally exempt from that uxoriousness which had been so fatal to one of his predecessors.

Cumberland tells a whimsical story of Dodd-

presented when they pass that way. He was introduced by the Earl of Harcourt. After being thus refreshed, she proceeded to Witham, where she arrived at a quarter past seven, and stopping at Lord Abercorn's, as elegant an entertainment was provided as the time would admit. The first course consisted of leverets, partridges, carp, and soles, brought by express from Colchester, just time enough for supper. There were many other dishes, but they were principally made. During the time of her supping, the door of the room was ordered to be wide open, that every body might have the pleasure and satisfaction of seeing her Majesty. At the sides of her chair stood the Lords Harcourt and Anson. The fruits were choice melons, figs, pears, &c. and many other sorts, both in and out of season. She slept that night at his lordship's house; and a little after twelve o'clock, September 8, came to Rumford, where she stopped at Mr. Dutton's, wine-merchant. The King's servants and his coaches met her Majesty there, and served her with coffee. Her Majesty staid there till almost one, and then went into his Majesty's coach, drove by his body coachman and chief postillion in their caps. Opposite to her Majesty sat their Graces the Duchesses of Hamilton and Ancaster. Her Majesty was dressed entirely in the English taste; she wore a fly cap, with rich laced lappets, a stomacher ornamented with diamonds, and a gold brocade suit of clothes with a white ground. Her coach was preceded by three of his Majesty's coaches, in which were some ladies from Mecklenburg, the Lords Harcourt, Anson, and others. The Leicester militia were drawn up in the several towns through which her Majesty passed, and at Mile End she was met by a party of

ington Lord Melcombe upon this occasion, who, "when he paid his court at St. James's to her Majesty upon her nuptials, approached to kiss her

horse grenadiers and life-guards. At Whitechapel turnpike they turned off to Bethnal Green, through Hackney turnpike, by Shoreditch church, up the City-road, from thence to Marybone, through Hyde-park, down Constitution-hill, to St. James's-park. Her Majesty alighted at the garden gate, being handed out of the coach by the Duke of Devonshire, Lord Chamberlain; and upon her entrance into the garden, she sunk on her knee to the King, who, in a most affectionate manner raising her up, saluted her, and then led her into the palace; where she dined with his Majesty, the Princess Dowager, and the Princess Augusta. Her Majesty's arrival at the Palace was immediately proclaimed by the firing of the guns in St. James's-park and at the Tower. All the Royal Family were present at the nuptials. Their Majesties, after the ceremony, sat on one side of the altar, on two state chairs, under a canopy: her Royal Highness the Princess Dowager of Wales sat facing them, in a chair of state, on the other side; and all the rest of the Royal Family on stools; and the Nobility, with the Foreign Ministers (among whom was M. de Bussy), on benches. The ceremony was ended at half an hour after ten, which was announced by the firing of the guns at the Park and the Tower. The houses in London and Westminster were finely illuminated.

The public anxiety at the time was admirably pictured in a letter from Horace Walpole to the Hon. H. Seymour Conway.

"Tuesday Morning, 8th Sept. 1761.

"Nothing was ever equal to the bustle and uncertainty of the town for these three days. The Queen was seen off the coast of Suffolk on Saturday last, and is not yet arrived; nay, last night at ten o'clock, it was neither certain where she landed, nor when she would be in town. I forgive history for knowing nothing, when so public an event as the arrival of a new Queen is a mystery even at the very moment at St. James's. The

hand, decked in an embroidered suit of silk, with lilac waistcoat and breeches, the latter of which in the act of kneeling down forgot their duty,

messenger that brought the letter yesterday morning, said, she arrived half after four at Harwich; this was immediately translated into landing, and notified in these words to the Ministers: six hours afterwards, it proved no such thing, and that she was only in Harwich road; and they recollected that half an hour after four happens twice in twenty-four hours, and the letter did not specify which of the twices it was. Well, the bridemaids whipt on their virginity; the new roads and the parks were thronged; the guns were choaking with impatience to get off; and Sir James Lowther, who was to pledge his Majesty, was actually married to Lady Mary Stuart; five, six, seven, and eight o'clock came, and no Queen; she lay at Witham, at Lord Abercorn's, who was most tranquilly in town; and it is not certain even whether she will be composed enough to be in town to-night; she has been sick but half an hour; sung and played on the harpsichord all the voyage, and been cheerful the whole time.

"*Twenty minutes past three in the afternoon, not in the middle of the night.*

"P. S. Madame Charlotte is this instant arrived; the noise of the coaches, chaises, horsemen, mob, that have been to see her pass through the parks, is so prodigious, that I cannot distinguish the guns. I am going to be dressed, and before seven shall launch into the crowd."*

* Her Majesty was not handsome—in the eye more especially of a man of twenty-two, whose heart was pre-occupied with another image. An involuntary expression of the King's countenance revealed what was passing within; but it was a passing cloud. The generous feelings of the Monarch were interested; and the tenderness with which he thenceforward treated Queen Charlotte was uninterrupted, until the moment of their final separation.

and broke loose from their moorings in a very indecorous and uncourtly manner."

When the nuptial knot was tied, the Queen, far

In a subsequent epistle he says—

"Sept. 9, 1761.

"The Queen is come; I have seen her, been presented to her, and may go back to Strawberry. For this fortnight I have lived upon the road between Twickenham and London. I came, grew impatient, returned; came again, still to no purpose. The yachts made the coast of Suffolk last Saturday; on Sunday entered the road of Harwich, and on Monday morning the King's chief eunuch, as the Tripoline Ambassador calls Lord Anson, landed the Princess, and yesterday at a quarter after three arrived at St. James's. In half an hour one heard of nothing but proclamations of her beauty; every body was content, every body was pleased. At seven one went to court—the night was sultry—about ten the procession began to move towards the chapel, and at eleven they all came up into the drawing-room. She *looks very sensible, cheerful, and is remarkably genteel.* Her tiara of diamonds was very pretty, her stomacher sumptuous, her violet velvet mantle very heavy. You 'll have no doubt of her sense by what I shall tell you. On the road they wanted her to curl her toupée: she said she thought it looked as well as that of any of the ladies sent to fetch her; if the King bid her, she would wear a perriwig; otherwise she would remain as she was. When she caught the first glimpse of the palace, she grew frightened and grew pale; the Duchess of Hamilton smiled; the Princess said, "My dear Duchess, you may laugh; you have been married twice, but it is no joke to me." Her lips trembled as the coach stopped, but she jumped out with spirit, and has done nothing but with good-humour and cheerfulness. She talks a great deal, is easy, civil, and not disconcerted. At first, when the bridemaids and the court were introduced to her, she said, "Mon dieu, il y en

from being elated at her exaltation, manifested, by her extreme affability and condescension, a mind infinitely superior even to royalty. Her

a tant!" She was pleased when she was to kiss the peeresses, but lady Augusta was forced to take her hand and give it to those who were to kiss it, which was prettily humble and good-natured. While they waited for supper, she sat down, sung, and played. Her French is tolerable; she exchanged much both of that and German with the King, the Duke, and Duke of York. They did not get to bed till two. To-day was a drawing-room; every body was presented to her, but she spoke to nobody, as she could not know a soul. The King looked very handsome, and talked to her continually with great good-humour. It does not promise as if they would be the two most *unhappy* persons in England."

The poetical effusions on this occasion were numberless. We select two as short and descriptive of the Royal pair:—

"She comes! I see her from afar,
Refulgent as the morning-star,
Or as the mid-day sun:
Conduct her, Heaven, across the deep;
Lay the unruly winds asleep!
Heaven spake, and it was done:
Th' obedient waves on the smooth surface glide,
And pay due homage to their Sov'reign's bride.

Inur'd too long to martial noise,
She comes to taste the envied joys
Of glory and repose;
No more to hear the orphan's cry,
The heartfelt pang, the plaintive sigh,
Nor dread approaching foes.
Boast then, Oh boast! the triumph of thine eyes;
The best of Princes is Charlotta's prize.

engaging behaviour endeared her to all ranks of people; whilst her innocent and virtuous disposition gained so much upon the affections of her

And see! the royal youth appears,
Mature in glory, ripe in years,
Britannia's darling care.—
Tell me, ye envious distant powers,
What isle can boast a King like ours,
What isle a Queen so fair?
Illustrious Monarch, thou hast gain'd from Heaven
Its choicest gift! What more could it have given?

Immortal Hymen, to whose care
Belong the solemn rites, prepare
To crown the happy day!
Ye Muses, sweep the sounding lyre!
Exert your warm poetic fire
To chase the hours away,
Till George receive her to the nuptial bed;
Till Innocence with royal Virtue wed:

And, when in living verse ye tell
How Britain rul'd, how Gallia fell,
In his auspicious reign,
Her beauty's empire shall be sung;
Her merit, prais'd by ev'ry tongue,
Shall close the grateful strain:
Long may she boast the triumph of her eyes;
Long may the best of princes be her prize!"

"Hymen, to thee our prayers ascend;
To thee fair Albion's sov'reigns bend;
Thy fragrant roses strow:

royal consort, that he became enamoured to an excess of fondness, each revolving day adding to his happiness, and to mutual confidence.

Their hands let smiling Concord join;
Venus a myrtle-wreath entwine
For George and Charlotte's brow.

See the brisk hours on rosy wing
From morn's bright portal, jocund spring
To hail the happy day;
Whilst slow retires th' Hesperian star,
Phœbus impatient mounts his car,
And beams his brightest ray.

Look through the radiant lists of time:
Seest thou in any age or clime
A nation bless'd like this?
A King, whose will 's the people's voice,
A Queen, whose worth 's the people's choice,
Accumulate its bliss.

Whilst, glad to cull each blooming flow'r,
And deck, bright pair, your nuptial bow'r,
Light frisk the purple loves,
Reason with Joy the work surveys;
And Virtue, smiling as they gaze,
Their busy care approves.

Though idle fops, still prone to change,
Like the gay bee incessant range,
'Tis folly deems them free:
Ye know, to yield in Virtue's cause,
To bend the will to Reason's laws,
Is real liberty.

Nor is this surprising when we reflect, that in natural disposition she was pleasing and good-humoured, with a peculiar aptitude, especially in her younger days, for sprightly and facetious conversation, abounding in anecdotes, which were always characteristic and marked by an acute and discriminating observation, and a thorough insight into the spring of human conduct.

Addresses now came in from all parts of the kingdom, and the numerous deputations from cities and universities were most graciously received at court, where the royal pair were highly distinguished for grace and affability. Their first public appearance was at chapel on the ensuing Sunday, which was crowded to excess; but the auditors were much disappointed by the sermon having no reference to the particular occasion; the

No wild desires can joy impart;
They please the sense, ne'er reach the heart,
Evaporate and cloy:
Who still pursue, but never fix,
Nor mental charms with sensual mix,
Possess, but ne'er enjoy.

Hymen, far nobler gifts are thine;
Each social joy, each bliss divine,
That glads the human breast:
Thine is th' ecstatic mutual glow,
'Tis you the sacred gift bestow,
In blessing to be blest.

Rev. Mr. Schutz confining himself to a mere practical illustration of the text, "Provide things honest in the sight of men."

The next evening was devoted to dramatic amusement at Drury-lane, to see "The Rehearsal;" their passage from the palace to the theatre being nearly obstructed by the loyal and curious crowds, who pressed so close upon the royal *cortege*, that the Queen experienced considerable alarm; and they both manifested great concern and sorrow on hearing the ensuing morning that serious injury had been done to many individuals, and one or two persons trampled to death in the pressure of the crowd.

Preparatory to the day of the coronation, the 22d of September, his Majesty had sedulously attended to all possible means of preventing accidents to the thousands expected to assemble; but as all these particulars have been already copiously detailed, and laid before the public in the "Memoirs of her Majesty," we shall confine the details of that important event to the occurrences personally connected with the King himself.

Every thing being previously arranged in Westminster-hall, a little before the royal procession began to march, proceeded that of the Princess Dowager, from the House of Lords, across Old Palace-yard, on a platform erected for that pur-

pose, to the south cross of Westminster-abbey. She was conducted by the hand by his Royal Highness Prince William Henry, dressed in white and silver, whose engaging affability and filial complaisance gained, in a moment, the esteem of all the spectators. Her train, which was of silk, was but short, and therefore not borne by any person; and her hair flowed down her shoulders in hanging curls. She had no cap, but only a circlet of diamonds.

The rest of the Princes and Princesses, her Highness's children, followed in order.

This procession was preceded only by a drum, which, as it did not alarm the crowd waiting to see the King and Queen, prevented any tumult or uproar from happening among the spectators, who were in general all genteel persons.

The other persons who made up the remainder of this procession, were those who had not a right to walk with their Majesties.

The royal procession now set off, preceded by music; and the drums staying at the west door of the church, the trumpets and kettle-drums first entered, and coming to the west door of the choir, turned up the stairs on the left hand, into their gallery, over that door.

By this time, the King and Queen, having entered the church, were received by the dean and prebendaries, who, with the choir of Westminster,

proceeding a little before their Majesties, sung an anthem.

When the Queen entered the choir, the King's scholars of Westminster-school, in number forty, all in surplices, being placed in a gallery adjoining to the great organ-loft, entertained her Majesty with this short prayer or salutation, VIVAT REGINA [naming her Majesty's name]; which they continued to sing until his Majesty entered the choir, whom they entertained in like manner with this prayer or salutation, VIVAT [naming his Majesty's name] REX; which they continued to sing until his Majesty ascended the theatre.

Then the King, having left the barons of the Cinque Ports, who bore his Majesty's canopy, at the entrance into the choir, and the gentlemen pensioners in the choir, ascended the theatre; and passing by the throne, to his chair of state near the foot of his throne, made an humble adoration, and kneeled down at his faldstool, just before his chair, and used some private devotions; the Queen doing the like: and then, arising, seated himself in his chair of state: and, being seated, the Queen also sat down in her chair of state. After some forms, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the King standing up, pronounced the recognition. —"Sirs, I here present unto you King George, the rightful inheritor of the crown of this realm; wherefore, all ye that are come this day to do

your homage, service, and bounden duty, are ye willing to do the same?"—To which was answered, "God save King George!"

The oblations were next offered; after which their Majesties kneeling at their faldstools, placed before their chairs, the archbishop said the following prayer:

"O God, who dwellest in the high and holy place, with them also who are of an humble spirit: look down graciously upon these thy servants, George our King, and Charlotte our Queen, here prostrate before thee at thy footstool, and mercifully receive these oblations," &c.

The sermon next followed, after certain ceremonies, preached by the Bishop of Salisbury. This distinguished prelate took, for his text, 1 Kings x. 9. "Because the Lord loved Israel for ever, therefore made he thee King to do judgment and justice." These words (he observed) lead naturally to two important truths:

I. That, when great and good kings reign, they are the means by which God blesses a people. It is not said, because the Lord loved Solomon, but, because he loved Israel, therefore made he Solomon king. II. That the duty and end of royalty is to do judgment and justice.

He further noticed that the merit of a wise and righteous government must certainly redound to the honour of the person who administers it: the

divine prerogative of communicating happiness and glory to a great people, of feeding them with a faithful and true heart, and ruling them prudently with all his power, must surely fill the mind of a prince with that inward delight and satisfaction that attend every act of a conspicuous and distinguished virtue; but the general utility is to the people: and, however he may partake of their felicity, the difficulty, the disquietude, the constant care lie upon the prince. Addressing himself more particularly to the principal personage at this august ceremony, the prelate most constitutionally stated that a wise prince will not only cultivate those principles which strengthen the bands by which every society is knit together, but he will also unalterably adhere to those means, and pursue those ends, which secure the foundations, and promote the benefits of the constitution, at the head of which he is placed. If this happy lot fall in a country where the constitution in church and state is founded upon the principles of purity and freedom, and justly poised between the extremes of power and liberty, he will find himself clothed with every degree of authority that a heart well-intentioned can desire; and at the head of a constitution, the best formed to convey peace and happiness to mankind: and it will be easy to him to make the law the rule of his actions, as he measures his own interest by that

of his people, and his own duty by the public good. After expatiating at some length upon the reciprocal duties of monarch and subject, he thus concluded: "What then remains, but to exhort you; and what can be more becoming this great and solemn occasion, than to offer up the most fervent supplications with one mind to heaven, that the Holy Spirit of that God, in whose presence the King and people are preparing to declare their mutual engagements, may pour into their hearts a sincere zeal for each other's happiness, and unite them in the strictest bands of affection! May the sacred oath, which our Sovereign takes at the altar of the King of kings, ever recur to his mind as the genuine intentions of his own heart! May the homage, which we pay him in all truth and faithfulness, be bound upon our hearts and minds with the ties of duty, gratitude, and love! And from us may unfeigned loyalty spread itself through all ranks, give a right temper to the conduct of all his subjects, and establish his kingdom."

Sermon being ended, the King uncovered his head, and the archbishop asked him, "Sir, Are you willing to take the oath usually taken by your predecessors?"

And the King answered, "I am willing."

Then the archbishop ministered these questions;

to which the King (having a book in his hand) answered, as followeth:

Archb.—"Sir, Will you solemnly promise and swear to govern the people of this kingdom of Britain, and the dominions thereto belonging, according to the statutes in parliament agreed, and the laws and customs of the same?"

The King.—"I solemnly promise so to do."*

Archb.—"Sir, Will you keep peace and godly agreement entirely, according to your power, to the holy church, the clergy, and the people?"

King.—"I will keep it."

Archb.—"Sir, Will you, to your power, cause law, justice, and discretion, in mercy and truth, to be executed in all your judgments?"

King.—"I will."

Archb.—"Sir, Will you grant to hold and keep the rightful customs which the commonalty of this your kingdom have? And will you defend and uphold them, to the honour of God, so much as in you lieth?"

King.—"I grant and promise so to do."

Then the petition or request of the bishops to the King was read by one of that sacred order, with a clear voice, in the name of the rest standing by: "Our Lord and King, we beseech you to

* An error crept into the former edition on this subject, from the inaccuracy of the authority referred to.

pardon us, and to grant and preserve unto us, and the churches committed to our charge, all canonical privileges, and due law and justice: and that you will protect and defend us, as every good king in his kingdom ought to be protector and defender of the bishops and churches under their government."

The King answered, "With a willing and devout heart I promise and grant you my pardon; and that I will preserve and maintain to you, and the churches committed to your charge, all canonical privileges, and due law and justice: and that I will be your protector and defender to my power, by the assistance of God, as every good king in his kingdom ought in right to protect and defend the bishops and churches under their government."

Then the King rose from his chair, and, being attended by the Lord Great Chamberlain, and supported by the two bishops, and the sword of state carried before him, went to the altar, and, laying his hand upon the evangelists, took the oath following: "The things, which I have here before promised, I will perform and keep. So help me God, and the contents of this book;" and then he kissed the book.

Exactly at half-past three o'clock, the archbishop, Secker, took the crown from the altar,

and placed it upon his Majesty's head, amidst the most awful silence. Instantly the music sounded, the people shouted "God save the King!" which was echoed from the guns of the Park and Tower, in answer to a signal from a flag-staff on the top of the abbey.

Te Deum being ended, the King ascended the throne, being lifted up by the archbishops and bishops, and other peers of the kingdom, who, with the noblemen that bore the swords before him, stood about the throne and steps.

The King being seated in his throne, the Archbishop, standing before him, said this exhortation:

"Stand firm, and hold fast from henceforth that place of royal dignity, whereof thou art the lawful and undoubted heir, by succession from thy forefathers," &c.

The exhortation being ended, all the peers then present did their homage to the King.

First, the Archbishop of Canterbury kneeling before his Majesty's knees (the other bishops doing the same behind and about him) did his homage, saying, "I, Thomas, Archbishop of Canterbury, will be faithful and true, and faith and truth will bear unto you, our Sovereign Lord, and your heirs, Kings of Great Britain: and I will do, and truly acknowledge, the service of the

land which I claim to hold of you, as in right of the church. So help me God."*

Then rising, he kissed the King's left cheek: after him, the rest of the bishops present did the like, and retired.

Then the first Duke, having in his hand the words of homage, in the behalf of himself and the rest of the Dukes, kneeled down, and said as follows: "I ——— Duke of ———, do become your liege man of life and limb, and of earthly worship: and faith and truth I will bear unto you, to live and die against all manner of folks. So help me God."

Then the Archbishop took the Queen's diadem from off the altar, and reverently set it on her Majesty's head, saying, "Receive the crown of glory, honour, and joy; and God, the crown of the faithful, who, by our episcopal hands (though most unworthy,) hath this day set a crown of pure gold upon thy head, enrich," &c.

The Queen being crowned, all the peeresses present put on their coronets: and then the Archbishop put the sceptre with the cross into her Majesty's right hand, and the ivory rod with

* At the coronation of King George the Second, his Majesty, as a part of the ceremony, *kissed* the archbishop and bishops as they knelt before him one after another. The late King omitted this part of the ceremony, which had been practised for centuries before on similar occasions.

the dove into her left, and said the following prayer:

"O Lord, the fountain of all good things, and the giver of all perfection, grant unto this thy servant Charlotte, our Queen," &c.

The Queen being thus anointed and crowned, and having received all her royal ornaments, the choirs sung an anthem, performed by the whole concert of voices and instruments.

As soon as the anthem began, the Queen rose from her faldstool; and, being supported by the two bishops, and her train borne, and attended as before, went up to the theatre; and, as she approached towards the King, bowed herself reverently to his Majesty sitting upon his throne; and so was conducted to her own throne on the left hand of the King, where she reposed herself till the anthem was ended.

The awful service of the communion now took place, when a most interesting particular occurred, which those only could observe who sat near the communion-table, as did the prebendaries of Westminster. When the King approached the communion-table in order to receive the sacrament, he inquired of the Archbishop whether he should not lay aside his crown? The Archbishop asked the Bishop of Rochester, but neither of them knew or could say whether there was any order in the service, for receiving it with or with-

out his crown; and his Grace replying there was none: "Then there ought to be," rejoined the excellent Prince; and immediately took off his crown, and received the sacrament without it.*

The order of return being arranged in due form, that most glorious and splendid assembly proceeded down the body of the church through the great west door, and so returned to Westminster-hall, by the same way it came: the Dukes of Normandy and Aquitaine wearing their caps of estate, the peers and peeresses their coronets, the bishops their caps, and the Kings of Arms their coronets.

All the way from the church to the hall, the drums beat, the trumpets sounded, and the vast

* This has been rather differently described by an eye-witness, who says, "When the anointing was over in the abbey, and the crown put upon the King's head, attended with great shouting, the two archbishops came to hand him down to the altar to receive the sacrament, when he told them he could not partake of that ordinance wearing his crown; for he looked upon himself, when approaching the King of kings, in no other light than that of an humble Christian, which were his very words. The bishops replied, although there was no precedent, his wish should certainly be complied with, and immediately he (the King) took it off and laid it aside, begging the same might be done by the Queen's crown. On being informed that could not easily be done, on account of the manner of its being put on; he replied, 'Well, then, let it be considered at present as part of her dress, and in no other light.'"

multitude of beholders filled the air with loud acclamations and shouts.

It is a curious fact that in returning, the most valuable jewel in the King's crown fell out, but was soon after picked up and honestly restored.

On their arrival at Westminster-hall, and the table being served, their Majesties sat down to dinner, as did likewise the peers and peeresses at their respective boards.

Before the second course was brought in, the King's Champion, who enjoys that office as being Lord of the Manor of Scrivelsby in Lincolnshire, entered the hall completely armed, in one of his Majesty's best suits of white armour, mounted on a goodly white horse, richly caparisoned, in this order: the Earl Marshal in his robes and coronet, on horseback, with the Marshal's staff in his hand; the champion on horseback, with a gauntlet in his right-hand, his helmet on his head, adorned with a great plume of feathers, white, blue, and red; the Lord High Constable in his robes and coronet, and collar of the order, on horseback, with the Constable's staff.

The passage to their Majesties table being cleared by the Knight Marshal, the Herald at Arms, with a loud voice, proclaimed the Champion's challenge at the lower end of the hall, in the words following:—

"If any person, of what degree soever, high or

low, shall deny or gainsay our Sovereign Lord King George III. King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, defender of the faith, &c. grandson and next heir to our Sovereign Lord King George II. the last King, deceased, to be right heir to the imperial crown of this realm of Great Britain, or that he ought not to enjoy the same, here is his Champion, who saith that he lyeth, and is a false traytor, being ready in person to combat with him; and in this quarrel will adventure his life against him, on what day soever he shall be appointed."

And then the Champion threw down his gauntlet; which, having lain some small time, the Herald took up, and re-delivered it to the Champion.

Their Majesties having dined, rose from table; received again their regalia, which had been held near them all dinner-time; and thus, with their crowns on their heads, and the orb and sceptres in their hands, and attended and their trains borne as before, and the four swords, and sceptre with the dove, being borne before his Majesty, they withdrew into the Court of Wards, where the crowns, orb, and sceptres being delivered to the Dean of Westminster, and master of the jewel-house, their Majesties departed in the same manner as they came thither.

After which the nobility, and all others who

dined in Westminster-hall, departed severally to their respective abodes and habitations.

The King's whole behaviour at the ceremony was justly admired and commended by every one, and particularly his manner of ascending and seating himself on the throne after his coronation. No actor in the character of Pyrrhus in the Distressed Mother, not even Booth himself, who was celebrated for it in the "Spectator," ever ascended the throne with so much grace and dignity.

Amongst other anecdotes connected with this event, it has been noticed of Archbishop Secker that he had the honour of baptizing his Majesty, confirming him when Prince of Wales, marrying him at St. James's, and crowning him at Westminster; besides which he christened his present Majesty, the Duke of York, and some others of the Royal Family,—a series of distinguished circumstances which can hardly be paralleled in the history of any other archbishop.

A whimsical circumstance took place with respect to Gwinn the architect, of whom it may in general be said, that perhaps our whole collection of anecdotes furnishes nothing more eccentric than the movements of this extraordinary artist. In pursuance of a determination he had made to retire as much as possible from all mortal communi-

cation, he took lodgings at an ale-house called the Three Tuns, in the Broad Sanctuary, Westminster, where he literally secluded himself from the world, and devoted all the time he could spare, from that avocation upon which the means of his subsistence depended, to the study of the occult sciences. His mathematical apparatus was worth several hundred pounds. He lodged at this *cabaret* during the coronation, when an accident occurred which rendered him nearly inconsolable. His host had erected a scaffold for spectators before Mr. Gwinn's window, when, from the tumult and bustle of the crowd, a bottle was broken which contained a large, old, favourite viper, that had been the only companion of his solitary moments for many months. No language could describe his despair at that event: he equally cursed the covetousness of his landlord and the curiosity of the company; for it should be known that the acclamations, novelty, grandeur, and pageantry of that superb scene had no charms for him; nor would he have stirred from his elbow chair to have beheld the triumphal entry of the son of Philip into Babylon. This adventure was terminated by a boxing-match between a gentleman and himself in his own chamber, as Mr. Gwinn had taken some indecent liberty with his opponent's wife, in whose dress he insisted that the strayed reptile had taken shelter.

But to recount a tenth part of the anecdotes of the time would far exceed all possible limits; we shall, therefore, briefly state one or two from Horace Walpole, who, describing the ceremony in a letter to a friend, said, "The coronation is over; 'tis even a more gorgeous sight than I imagined. I saw the procession and the hall; but the return was in the dark. In the morning they had forgot the sword of state, the chairs for King and Queen, and their canopies. They used the Lord Mayor's sword for the first, and made the last in the hall; so they did not set forth till noon; and then, by a childish compliment to the King, reserved the illumination of the hall till his entry, by which means they arrived like a funeral, nothing being discernible but the plumes of the Knights of the Bath, which seemed the hearse. Of all the incidents of the day, the most diverting was what happened to the Queen. She had a retiring chamber, with *all* conveniences, prepared behind the altar. She went thither: in the most convenient, what found she but the Duke of Newcastle." He adds of the Queen, that she was much pleased with the opera a few nights afterwards, and declared she would go once a-week: and he observes that the crowds at the opera and play, whenever the royal pair went there, were greater than he ever remembered.

It is a fact that the Pretender, then only assum-

ing the title of Prince of Wales, was present *incognito* at the coronation. A gentleman recognized him, and whispered in his ear, "Your Royal Highness is the last of all mortals I should have expected to see here." To which the other replied, "It was curiosity that led me; but I assure you, that the person who is the object of all this pomp and magnificence, is the man I envy the least!"

At this visit, or at the preceding one in 1753, it has been said, that he actually abjured the Catholic religion; performing that ceremony at the New Church in the Strand, under the simple name of Charles Stuart.

Amidst all this bustle of pomp and pageantry, politics were not forgotten, nor the welfare of the state; and young as the Monarch was, he would not suffer his mind to be dazzled by the splendour of victories in America and Germany, but prudently listened to pacific counsels, though in so doing he acted contrary to the advice of the most popular statesmen, and even to the sentiments of the people, who were infatuated by successes which the peace party said added to the glory of the nation without contributing to its security. The war minister, finding that his influence declined, threatened to resign; and when this was represented to the King as a measure which might be attended with unpleasant circumstances, his

Majesty replied, "I am determined not to be the only slave in a country where it is my wish to see all the people free!"

Much has been said by all the writers of that period respecting the struggle of the Bute and Pitt interest: without taking up the standard of either party it is sufficient here to observe, that on the 5th of October his Majesty lost two faithful servants, Mr. Pitt and Lord Temple, both resigning on the same day, and giving to the King their reasons in writing, who was so sensible of the worth of Pitt, though political circumstances had separated them, that he not only expressed his own personal concern to that minister, but offered him any rewards in the power of the crown to bestow: and the next day a pension of 3000*l.* per annum was settled on himself, and a peerage conferred on his lady and her issue. Indeed, although the differences in the cabinet alone induced Mr. Pitt to give in his resignation, yet the King received him with ease and firmness, and without any apparent wish to retain him; but he expressed concern at the loss of so able a minister, and again made him an unlimited offer of any rewards in the power of the crown to bestow, though he still declared his intention of adhering to that advice which Mr. Pitt disapproved of, saying that he was so satisfied with the opinion of the majority of the council, not to break with

Spain, that he should have found considerable difficulty in agreeing to their measures if they had concurred as fully in Mr. Pitt's advice as they had done in rejecting it. The ex-minister was so much struck by the candour and condescension of the King, that he answered, "I confess, Sire, I had but too much reason to expect your Majesty's displeasure. I did not come prepared for this exceeding goodness. Pardon me, Sire, it overpowers—it oppresses me," and, as stated, then burst into tears.

When Pitt's dismissal, or resignation, took place, and the news found its way to Rome, Cardinal Stoppani (Il politico) observed to an English gentleman at the Vatican, that he could not give credit to it—"For what heir," said he, "on coming to a considerable estate, and finding it excellently well managed by a steward, would dismiss that steward merely because he had served his predecessor?"

Amongst the various public compliments of joy and respect on account of the royal nuptials and coronation, was a pastoral called *Arcadia*, written by Lloyd, and brought out at Drury-lane; but, though the manager exerted all his powers to promote its success, it was but short-lived. The coronation was also followed by a stage representation at both winter theatres; and Davies tells us in his Life of Garrick, that this manager displayed

an extraordinary degree of parsimony in his preparation, availing himself merely of some old property, once extremely magnificent, when first exhibited in 1727, and then attended with great profit to the managers, who brought forward the whole strength of the house in Henry VIII.

Though Garrick knew that his rival (Rich)*

* Some whimsical contemporary anecdotes of this eccentric manager deserve a place here. A country performer, who, prehaps, might have offered no inconsiderable share of incense, prevailed so much upon Rich, that he permitted him to make his *debut* at Covent-Garden theatre in Hamlet. The man shewed himself totally disqualified for the part from his first scene; but when he came to the celebrated soliloquy of "To be, or not to be," he unfortunately wanted to blow his nose; but being as unfortunately provided with no pocket handkerchief, he had recourse to his usual habit of the fingers, which set the audience in such a roar of laughter that it was with great difficulty the rest of the play could be dragged through.

Rich, who stood upon tenter-hooks at the side of the scene through the whole course of the representation, said nothing till the play was over, when, going up to the performer, he exclaimed, "Mr. ——, I believe you to be a very good kind of a man, and know you to be a good companion, but as to acting, G—d d—n me, Mr. ——, you must go blow your nose at some other theatre."

The criterion of his pecuniary success as a manager he calculated by the following custom, which he continued for a great series of years before his death. He lived at the back of his own theatre, the passage to which was by a long entry next door to the Bedford coffee-house; here he had an iron closet, built in the wall of a private room, in which he had a drawer peculiarly appropriated for keeping his ready money: when

would spare no expense at the other house, and was aware also that he had considerable taste in ordering, dressing, and setting out pompous processions, superior to his own, yet he was contented with reviving "The Coronation," with those old dresses which were now almost worn out; forcing it on the public for near forty nights successively, sometimes at the end of a play, and sometimes after a farce. But then he surprised the audience with opening the back of the stage into Drury-lane, where a real bonfire was exhibited, with the populace huzzaing, and drinking porter to the health of Anne Boleyn; whilst the stage was paraded by dukes, duchesses, archbishops, heralds, &c. but nearly hid from view,

the guineas swelled up to a certain ring near the top of this drawer, the world went well, and the manager was in spirits; but whenever there was an ebb, he was in an ill humour, cursing the tragedians and comedians of high salaries, and extolling the never-failing resources of pantomime. On the successful run of one of his pantomimes (we believe it was "Harlequin Dr. Faustus") this iron drawer ran over, and Rich was in such a transport of joy on the occasion, that he declared, as soon as ever his engagements with the tragedy ranters were over, he should exhibit nothing but pantomime at his theatre.

His last grand scenic exhibition was the representation of "The Coronation," for which he went to such expenses that his bare bill for velvets came to *four thousand pounds*. The success of it, however, fully repaid him, and he had the satisfaction to close a long life in the uniform pursuit of a favourite and profitable amusement.

being covered with a thick fog from the effects of the weather and the smoke of the fire, which certainly had the effect of hiding the paltry dresses of the procession, but with another unpleasant consequence, giving severe colds and rheumatisms to the various actors by their exposure to the current of an ungenial atmosphere.

The public indignation at length put an end to this absurdity, but not until for nights the benches had been nearly empty, when the few who remained on the last time of performance fairly drove the actors off the stage.

Rich's performance being now nearly completed, public attention was turned towards it, notwithstanding their disappointment at Drury; and it was soon after brought out, with such a profusion of fine clothes, velvets, silks, satin, laces, feathers, jewels, as had never before been exhibited upon any stage. A serious dispute arose on the occasion, between the two celebrated actresses of the day, Mrs. Bellamy and Mrs. Hamilton, which of them should represent the Queen; neither of the ladies would resign her pretension to the honour; and Mr. Rich settled the matter by introducing the afterwards admirable actress, Mrs. Mattocks, then Miss Hallam, for the first time on the stage, who was exactly the age of the Queen, and was then extremely like her Majesty in figure.

On the 3d of November, the Parliament met; his Majesty went to the House of Peers, and being in his royal robes seated on the throne with the usual solemnity, Sir Septimus Robinson, Knt. Usher of the Black Rod, was sent with a message to the House of Commons, commanding their attendance in the House of Peers; the Commons being come thither, his Majesty signified his pleasure to them, by the Lord Chancellor, that they should return to their House and choose their Speaker, and present him on Friday next, at one o'clock. They returned accordingly, and unanimously chose Sir John Cust, Bart.

On the 6th his Majesty opened the new Parliament, in a speech the first point of which* was

* "My Lords, and Gentlemen,

"At the opening of the first Parliament summoned and elected under my authority, I with pleasure take notice of an event which has made me completely happy, and given universal joy to my loving subjects. My marriage with a Princess, eminently distinguished by every virtue and amiable endowment, whilst it affords me all possible domestic comfort, cannot but highly contribute to the happiness of my kingdoms; which has been, and always shall be, my first object in every action of my life.

"It has been my earnest wish that this first period of my reign might be marked with another felicity; the restoring of the blessings of peace to my people, and putting an end to the calamities of war, under which so great a part of Europe suffers. But though overtures were made to me, and my good

his recent "marriage with a Princess eminently distinguished by every virtue and amiable endowment, which, whilst it affords me all possible domestic comfort, cannot but highly contribute to the happiness of my kingdoms; which has been, and always shall be, my first object in every action of my life." He then noticed the attempt which he had made to bring about a general peace; which being fruitless, he was determined to prosecute the war with the greatest vigour; and concluded by recommending to the Legislature the consideration of a proper dowry for her Majesty.

The 9th of November was the most brilliant Lord Mayor's day which had been seen for many

brother and ally the King of Prussia, by the several belligerent Powers, in order to a general pacification, for which purpose a congress was appointed; and propositions were made to me by France, for a particular peace with that Crown, which were followed by an actual negotiation; yet that congress hath not hitherto taken place, and the negotiation with France is entirely broken off.

"The sincerity of my disposition to effectuate this good work has been manifested in the progress of it; and I have the consolation to reflect, that the continuance of the war, and the farther effusion of Christian blood, to which it was the desire of my heart to put a stop, cannot with justice be imputed to me.

"Our military operations have been in no degree suspended or delayed; and it has pleased God to grant us farther important successes, by the conquest of the islands of Belleisle and Dominica; and by the reduction of Pondicherry, which

years. The Aldermen, &c. met at the Mansion-house, and the Lord Mayor elect, in his state coach, with the usual attendants, departed from thence to the Three Cranes, from whence they proceeded in barges to Westminster, where his lordship was sworn in before the barons of the exchequer.

hath in a manner annihilated the French power in the East Indies. In other parts, where the enemy's numbers were greatly superior, their principal designs and projects have been generally disappointed, by a conduct which does the highest honour to the distinguished capacity of my General Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, and by the valour of my troops. The magnanimity and ability of the King of Prussia have eminently appeared in resisting such numerous armies, and surmounting so great difficulties.

"In this situation I am glad to have an opportunity of receiving the truest information of the sense of my people, by a new choice of their representatives. I am fully persuaded you will agree with me in opinion, that the steady exertion of our most vigorous efforts, in every part where the enemy may still be attacked with advantage, is the only means that can be productive of such a peace as may with reason be expected from our successes. It is therefore my fixed resolution, with your concurrence and support, to carry on the war in the most effectual manner, for the interest and advantage of my kingdoms; and to maintain, to the utmost of my power, the good faith and honour of my Crown, by adhering firmly to the engagements entered into with my allies. In this I will persevere, until my enemies, moved by their own losses and distresses, and touched with the miseries of so many nations, shall yield to the equitable conditions of an honourable peace; in which case, as well as in the prosecution of the war, I do assure

While that ceremony was performing, their Majesties, with the Royal family, honoured the City with their presence, in order to view his lordship's procession, and afterwards to dine at Guildhall. Their Majesties were attended, as they passed from St. James's to the City, with the loudest acclamations of joy. Scaffoldings were

you, no consideration whatever shall make me depart from the true interests of these my kingdoms, and the honour and dignity of my Crown.

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

"I am heartily sorry that the necessity of large supplies appears so clearly from what has already been mentioned. The proper estimates for the services of the ensuing year shall be laid before you; and I desire you to grant me such supplies as may enable me to prosecute the war with vigour, and as your own welfare and security, in the present critical conjuncture, require; that we may happily put the last hand to this great work. Whatsoever you give, shall be duly and faithfully applied.

"I dare say your affectionate regard for me and the Queen makes you go before me in what I am next to mention, the making an adequate and honourable provision for her support, in case she should survive me. This is what not only her royal dignity, but her own merit calls for; and I earnestly recommend it to your consideration.

"My Lords, and Gentlemen,

"I have such a confidence in the zeal and good affections of this Parliament, that I think it quite superfluous to use any exhortations to excite you to a right conduct. I will only add, that there never was a situation in which unanimity, firmness, and dispatch were more necessary for the safety, honour, and true interest of Great Britain."

built at many of the houses in the City, and the concourse of people who were assembled was almost incredible. Four regiments of the London militia met at their respective parades, between the hours of seven and eight in the morning, and were under arms till evening.

The manner in which this visit was paid took place as follows:—

The Duke of Cumberland, in his coach drawn by six horses, preceded and followed by guards.

Princess Amelia in the same manner.

The Duke of York, in a new state coach, in the same manner, and likewise followed by a numerous retinue.

Prince William, Prince Henry, and Prince Frederick, in one coach, in the same manner, with a numerous retinue.

The Princess Dowager of Wales, the Princess Augusta, and the Princess Caroline Matilda, in one coach, preceded by twelve footmen with black caps, and with guards, in the same manner as the others, and a grand retinue.

Their Majesties in their state coach, preceded by the Earl of Harcourt in his chariot, and the Dukes of Rutland and Devonshire in another chariot, the grenadier guards, and the yeomen of the guards, and followed by a corps of the horse guards, passed on to St. Paul's Church-yard, at the east end of which a scaffold was erected for

the reception of the boys educated at Christ's hospital; where a speech was addressed with all humility to the King's most excellent Majesty, by the senior scholar of the grammar-school on that foundation.

As soon as he had finished, the boys in a grand chorus chanted, "God save the King," Amen; and the senior scholar delivered two copies of the speech to the King and Queen.

From thence they went to the house of Mr. Barclay, opposite to Bow-church, which was on this occasion decorated in a very sumptuous manner; the rooms, balcony, &c. being hung with crimson damask; and from this house they saw the procession of the Lord Mayor, &c. Barclay, who was the only surviving son of Robert Barclay, author of the famous Apology for the Quakers, was then 81 years of age, and had lived many years at his house in Cheapside, during which period he had enjoyed the singular honour of receiving three successive sovereigns, when at their accessions they favoured the city with the royal presence.

Though both their Majesties considered this visit to the honest quaker as devoid of etiquette, yet his family contrived to maintain an elegant decorum, without infringing upon their own primitive simplicity, the house too being completely filled with the *Friends*, whose curiosity was as

much on tiptoe as that of the most worldly-minded.

The Queen entered first, and the King followed without ceremony, and even permitted the Barclay family to kiss his hand without kneeling, meeting them himself familiarly at the drawing-room door, as they entered after he had first shewn himself to the crowds in the street, saluting them all with great politeness, and winning the hearts of those worthy people by his condescension.

The King's example of kissing all the fawn-coloured ladies was followed by the Princes his brothers, and by his royal uncle; but this latter part of the ceremony was not performed until the moment of departure, and after their Majesties had quitted the apartment.

A little grand-daughter of Mr. Barclay was introduced to the Queen in a retiring apartment, and performed kissing hands with so much grace, that the Queen could not help remarking it to his Majesty, when Miss was sent for to the drawing-room, and afforded great entertainment to him, as she appeared in true Quaker simplicity, and said, that though she must not love fine things, yet she loved the King, and apologized for not making a courtesy, by stating that her grand-papa would never permit her to do so.

Amidst all this bustle, the King never sat down, nor would he take any refreshment; the Queen

indeed took tea, which the family had the honour of presenting to the lady in waiting, who knelt in presenting it to her Majesty, thus gratifying the Quakers by the honour, and absolving their consciences from the slur of "bending the knee to Baal."

The civic procession being very late, their Majesties stopped until seven o'clock; sending every body away before them, except the two ladies in waiting, and remaining quietly till the bustle was over, without either guards or attendants in the house, the life guards being merely drawn up in Bow Church-yard; yet so careful was the King of the property of his worthy host, that he ordered a party of guards to be stationed before the house after his departure, to prevent any damage being done by the mob to the canopy and other decorations.

The processsion being ended, the Royal Family were conducted by the sheriffs to Guildhall; at the entrance of which they were received by the Lord Mayor, who, kneeling, presented the City sword to the King; which his Majesty graciously pleasing to return, it was carried before him by his lordship to the council-chamber, where the compliments of the city were made him. From thence, in like manner, the Royal Family proceeded to the hustings, where a most magnificent entertainment was provided.

This entertainment was the most splendid, most elegant, most sumptuous, and best conducted, of any that had been given in this kingdom in the memory of man; and did honour to the munificence and taste of the great and opulent City of London. His Majesty and all the Royal Family expressed their approbation; and the nobility and foreign ministers unanimously acknowledged it was beyond any thing they had ever seen.

On returning, his Majesty did not forget his primitive friends in Cheapside, but looked for the Barclay family, who were still waiting to see the procession, and paid them the most marked personal compliments in passing, shewing that the feelings of the gentleman were not lost in the splendid etiquette of the Monarch.

A few days afterwards, at a court of common-council, a motion was made, "That his Majesty's statue be erected on the Royal Exchange, amongst those of his predecessors; and the pictures of his Majesty, and his Royal Consort, be put up in the Guildhall of this City;" and unanimously resolved. Another motion was made, "That the committee, who were appointed to prepare the late entertainment of their Majesties and the Royal Family, do employ fit persons, and give proper orders and directions, for making the said statue and drawing the said pictures; and that, in order thereunto, they do make their humble application to his Majesty,

and his royal consort our most gracious Queen, that they will be pleased to do this City the honour to sit for their pictures, and to signify their royal pleasure therein; and that the said committee do at the same time express to his Majesty the deep and grateful sense which this court will ever retain of his Majesty's gracious condescension in honouring their late entertainment at Guildhall with his royal presence, and that of his most august Consort and Royal Family;" also unanimously resolved in the affirmative.

In the course of the next session his Majesty manifested great patriotism in regard to his own revenues. The message on this subject, which was on the 25th of November, was that his Majesty, ever desirous of giving the most substantial proofs of his tender regard to the welfare of his people, was pleased to signify his consent, that, whenever the House of Commons should enter upon the consideration of making provision for the support of his household, and of the honour and dignity of the crown, such disposition might be made of his Majesty's interest in the hereditary revenues of the crown as should best conduce to the utility and satisfaction of the public. This message was instantly referred to the committee of supply, and a bill, in due course, brought in, settling the civil list at 800,000*l.* per annum; and it must be remembered, that although the hereditary reve-

nues of the crown, during the first, the second, and the twentieth years of the preceding reign had been so far deficient as to require supplies from parliament, yet during thirty years of that reign the civil list fund had yearly produced more than 800,000*l.*

All legislative financial arrangements having been settled, on Wednesday the 2d of December his Majesty went with the usual state, attended by the Right Hon. Lord Delawar and Lord Robert Bertie, to the House of Peers, and gave the royal assent to the bill for settling the dowry of the Queen, in case she should survive his Majesty. Her Majesty was likewise present to make an acknowledgement, usual on such an occasion, seated on a chair of state, from whence she arose, and made her obeisance to the King most gracefully. The provision was the same as for Queen Caroline; 100,000*l.* per annum, with Richmond Old Park, and Somerset-house annexed, in case she should survive his Majesty. Also a patent passed the privy seal, granting unto her Majesty the sum of 40,000*l.* yearly, for the better support of her dignity.

In the course of the month, he completed his purchase of Buckingham-house for 21,000*l.* and presented it to the Queen, who was so much pleased with it as a town residence, that it was immediately fitted up with selected furniture from

the other palaces, and ornamented with some of the best pictures in the royal collection. The intention of the royal pair in thus selecting a residence distinct from the official palace, as St. James's may be styled, was evidently to retire from court etiquette to domestic tranquillity, except when the forms of state required the assumption of regal ceremony—an object which they could not have attained whilst residing in the state apartments of the palace, from whence the partial or temporary exclusion of state officers and courtly attendants would have been impossible, or at least ungracious. Much good sense was therefore displayed by this arrangement, which permitted the Royal Family to enjoy domestic quiet like the happiest of their subjects, without interfering with the forms of state absolutely necessary on public days, or official business.

Some, indeed, found fault with this system, talking of Asiatic seclusion, and seeming to think that the whirl and bustle of an open Court, as in the days of Charles II., or the stiff German grandeur, familiarizing into formal card-parties, of the preceding Georges, ought to have been adopted; but the King had a better taste, and wisely judged that if he paid a strict attention to the necessary forms of government and of public ceremonial, he had as good a right as any of his subjects to avail himself of British liberty, and pass his leisure

agreeably to his own liking, and his own sense of propriety.

That his retiring mode of life could not proceed from any other motives, is evident from a letter of Walpole's, who, in describing the etiquette at St. James's, says—"The King himself seems all good nature, and wishing to satisfy every body; all his speeches are obliging. I saw him again yesterday, and was surprised to find the levee-room had lost so entirely the air of the lion's den. This sovereign don't stand in one spot, with his eyes royally fixed on the ground, and dropping bits of German news; he walks about and speaks to every body. I saw him afterwards on the throne, where he is graceful and genteel, sits with dignity, and reads his answers to addresses well."

Soon after the royal nuptials, his Majesty gave a proof of his true English feeling in regard to the manufactures of his country; for the Earl Temple, then Lord Lieutenant of Bucks, having been requested by Mr. Lowndes, M. P. for the county, on behalf of the lace manufacturers, to present to the young Monarch a pair of fine ruffles made at Newport Pagnell, his Majesty, after examining them minutely, and asking many questions concerning that branch of trade, was most graciously pleased to express himself that the inclinations of his own heart naturally led him to set a high value upon every endeavour to improve

any English manufacture; and that whatever had such a recommendation would be preferred by him to works, possibly of higher perfection, made in any other country.

1762.

On the 4th of January, 1762, although negotiations had been for some time going on for a general peace, a declaration of war was issued against Spain; but the affair was popular, and the people, though they knew that their Sovereign was averse from war, were in good humour with him also, as he seemed to study their welfare even in points of state and ceremony, as exemplified at the commencement of this year, in fixing the celebration of the Queen's birth-day for the 18th of January, instead of its real anniversary within a few days of his own, so as to divide the year equally, and thus encourage both winter and summer fashions in articles of court dress and equipage.

The foreign transactions of this year present something similar to our more recent Peninsular campaigns, in our defence of Portugal from the united invasion of France and Spain; but it is not our intention to enter deeper into that subject than to notice his Majesty's good faith to Portugal, and which induced him to forego his own pacific wishes, and enter with spirit upon plans for her preservation, which were finally successful to-

wards the close of the year, by the gallantry of the British reinforcements.

That his Majesty was personally averse, if it could have been honourably avoided, to the extension of warfare, is evident from his speech on the breaking out of this war; a speech delivered on the 19th of January, six weeks after the detention of British shipping in the Spanish ports.

His Majesty observed to his parliament, that as he had so often assured them of his sincere disposition to put an end to the calamities of war, and to restore the public tranquillity on solid and lasting foundations, so did he feel convinced that no impartial person, either at home or abroad, could suspect him of unnecessarily kindling a new war in Europe: but in that case he had found himself indispensably obliged to declare war against Spain, for the various causes as set forth in the public declaration.

He then animadverted strongly on the marked good-will manifested towards Spain for many years, both by his predecessor and himself, so that he was even astonished at the engagements entered into between that country and France.

He averred, and indeed with great truth, that he had used every means possible to prevent the rupture; but it was then become inevitable—for its issue he depended upon the Divine blessing on the justice of his cause, and he felt the honour

of the crown, and the interests of the kingdom, safe in the hands of parliament.

Some new ministerial arrangements took place in May, when Lord Bute became first lord of the treasury, and prime minister in the room of the Duke of Newcastle; but the war of politics at home, and of military enterprise abroad, did not prevent the King from paying that attention to science and literature which has distinguished his reign, notwithstanding the discontented clamour of disappointed individuals, who consider patronage of their abilities as the only test of judgment.

It was in this year that a pension of 300*l.* was granted to Johnson, at the instance of the prime minister, with the generous assurance from Majesty itself, that it was not a retaining fee for future services, but a reward for merit.

Sheridan also, father of the late admired orator, enjoyed the royal bounty in a pension of 200*l.* conferred upon him for the express purpose of enabling that philologist to continue his literary researches for the improvement of the English language.

It must not be forgotten that in the preceding year his Majesty subscribed 100*l.* towards printing Thomson's Works; the profits of which were to erect his monument, and to afford relief to some poor relatives.

About this period his Majesty gave great en-

couragement to the Society for the preservation and performance of Ancient Music: and his taste for the arts in general, is well exemplified in a letter from Rome which says:—

"Nothing gives me more satisfaction than to find so many fine things purchased for the King of Great Britain. He is now master of the best collection of drawings in the world, having purchased two or three capital collections in this city; the last, belonging to Cardinal Albanis, for fourteen thousand crowns, consists of three thousand large volumes, one third of which are original drawings of the best masters; the others, collections of the most capital engravings. And lately there has been purchased for his Majesty, all the museum of Mr. Smith, at Venice, consisting of his library, prints, drawings, designs, &c. I think it is highly probable that the arts and sciences will flourish in Great Britain, under the protection and encouragement of a monarch, who is himself an excellent judge of merit in the fine arts."

Mr. Smith had long been resident as consul at Venice, and one great point of value in his collection was its possessing a most copious list of the first printed editions of the classic authors. In addition to these purchases was that of King Charles's MSS. and printed tracts, to the number of 30,000, which had fallen into private hands, but were now presented by his Majesty to the British Museum.

He also evinced a desire to encourage painting, by his declared intention of granting a Royal Charter for that purpose, and by the foundation of the Royal Academy, an institution which had been long talked of, though perhaps checked in its progress to perfection by the rivalry of the artists themselves.*

* We subjoin the following pertinent remarks from an agreeable periodical Work:—"The nation can never be sufficiently grateful to the Society 'for the Encouragement of Arts, Sciences, and Commerce,' in the Adelphi, which dates from 1753, before his Majesty came to the crown. This society had proposed premiums, and had conferred bounties on pictures of merit; had brought into notice many rising artists in various branches; it had begun to excite attention in the public mind; it also accommodated the first exhibition with the use of its great room. It had, moreover, taken steps towards encouraging the art of engraving; yet the art of engraving in its more elevated branches as a national art, must be placed in the auspicious reign of George the Third; for not till then had the landscapes of Wilson been immortalized by the graver of Woollett, or the prints from British history after West, obtained circulation throughout the world. Wilson and West, and Woollett, were British artists, as were Strange and Hall, M'Ardell and Earlom: but we must not overlook the encouragement this art received from the patronage bestowed by his Majesty and the public on Bartolozzi, an Italian, or the popularity divided between that meritorious artist, the engraver, and his countryman and fellow student, Cipriani, the painter."

"The Graphic Arts felt equal encouragement, and it must be acknowledged that they received, if not a being, yet a cha-

About the year 1753, Mr. Sandby, and several other members of an academy who met at what had previously been Roubilliac's workshop in St. Martin's-lane, wishing to extend their plan, and establish a society on a broader basis, held several meetings for the purpose of making new regulations, &c. Concerning these regulations it may naturally be supposed there were a variety of opinions; but Hogarth, who was one of the members,

racter and an establishment in the reign of his late Majesty, who gave first of all a charter of incorporation to a society of artists (dated January 1765), whose exhibitions had begun in 1760. The royal bounty presented them with an annual donation of one hundred pounds. The Royal Academy was instituted some years afterwards. Those only who recollect the degraded state of the arts before the year 1760, can properly appreciate the advantages derived from these institutions. It is true, that Pope complimented Jervais, as bestowing immortality by his pencil; but who now quotes as excellent a picture by Jervais? and though Hudson had much business as a portrait painter, yet, to speak without undue partiality, the arts are under much greater obligations to him for bringing forward a number of pupils superior to himself, than for any, or for all, of his performances. There was no such thing as an English school of art at that time, and foreigners (Vanloo may be cited as an instance) were thought men of superior talents, because our own artists had no reputation for talents at all. If the reader now distinguishes in our public exhibitions portraits that compete with the best works of Vandyke, and historical pieces not unworthy of the noblest times of Italy, let him acknowledge that these partake of the nature of novelties among us, and are not of long-standing in the British school."

and who deservedly held a very high rank in the arts, disapproved of the whole scheme, and wished the society to remain as it then was. He thought that enlarging the number of students would induce a crowd of young men to quit more profitable pursuits, neglect what might be more suitable to their talents, and introduce to the practice of the arts more professors than the arts would support. This naturally involved him in many disputes with his brother artists; and as these disputes were not always conducted with philosophic calmness, the satirist sometimes said things that his opponents deemed rather too severe for the occasion. On the publication of his "Analysis of Beauty," they recriminated with interest. Among the prints which were then published to ridicule his system (the line of beauty, &c.) are six or eight, that from the manner in which they are conceived, and the uncommon spirit with which they are etched, carry *more than probable marks* of the *burin* of Mr. Sandby, who was then a very young man, but has since declared, that if he had known Mr. Hogarth's merit then, as well as he has done since, he would on no account have drawn a line which might tend to his dispraise.

Hogarth, no doubt, expected to take the lead in an affair of this kind; but he was disappointed, and Reynolds became the president, as detailed

in a masterly manner in Northcote's Memoirs of that celebrated painter, which renders further particulars here unnecessary.

On the 12th of August the joy of the nation was increased by the birth of an heir to the throne. The hope of continuing the protestant succession to his Majesty's family was now changed to a kind of certainty, and the birth of an heir was, of itself, sufficient to have established the popularity of a Queen of England, even had she wanted those many virtues which her late Majesty was so well known to possess: and here we may therefore pause in our narrative, and take a slight retrospect of her who for so many years graced the British throne. It has been well observed of her, that as a wife, and as a mother, the conduct of her Majesty was in the highest degree irreproachable; and those virtues which constituted her own daily practice she never dispensed with in the objects of her patronage or attachment. During the long period in which she presided over the English court, it was remarkable for the steady countenance uniformly extended to virtue, and as uniformly withdrawn from its opposite. Her undeviating adherence to this principle sometimes exposed her to the exasperated invectives of those who had to make the faults they ridiculed or condemned. What every honest man would wish to

HIS MAJESTY

GEORGE THE IV.

BORN AUGUST 12 1762.

see his daughter become, in the relations of domestic life, every unprejudiced man might behold in the character of her late Majesty.

To appreciate her virtues more fully, and the national advantages resulting from this union, it must be taken into consideration that when her Majesty was united to our revered Sovereign, there was hardly a Court in Europe that was not marked by its licentiousness. The vices of the French court notoriously led to the revolution, which deluged that fine country with blood; and it is equally true, that the same cause occasioned in a great measure the horrors with which Spain and Naples were subsequently visited. During that time England presented from the throne the example of those virtues that form the great and binding links of the social chain; and to it we may in part ascribe our happiness in having withstood the storm which visited the rest of Europe with all the horrors of invasion or anarchy. This example was the more salutary, as every thing in our situation tended to an excessive dissoluteness of manners. Our sudden and rapid prosperity was calculated to produce the greatest moral relaxation; and it is undeniable, that the influence of the domestic life led by their Majesties powerfully contributed to check the torrent of corruption, which, from a vast accumulation of wealth, threatened to overflow the face of the country.

This ought to be considered as a full counterbalance to any apparent deficiency of court etiquette, that was so much complained of by the young and giddy, who gave the nickname of Holyrood House to the Queen's Palace, because it was the scene of regal retirement from the toils of state. The fact certainly is, that great expectations had been formed among the nobility of seeing under the new reign a lively court, full of gaiety and splendour; but though her Majesty partook of the public diversions, and appeared gratified with the pleasure which her presence afforded, she delighted more in the tranquil enjoyment of domestic society. She went through, however, the formal ceremonies of the court-days with blended dignity and sweetness, softening the sense of her high station by the most condescending gracefulness of manner and pleasantness of conversation; and though every one admitted to her presence felt the impression made by the appearance of royalty, none departed without being charmed with an admiration of her goodness. But the crown and consummation of all her other excellencies was that entire unity of affection, which for above half a century knit together her heart and that of our beloved Monarch; nor can we ever reflect but with a feeling of national gratitude, on that constant personal

attention to the good old King, which her Majesty continued, in so exemplary a manner, to pay for years after he had become unconscious of her tenderness.

In short, their life at this period was simplicity itself; for the hours of the Queen were economized with the greatest regularity: the forenoon was devoted to reading with Dr. Majendie, who was her instructor in the English tongue: and in this employment his Majesty cheerfully assisted; so that in a short time the royal pupil was not only enabled to discourse fluently, but to write the language correctly, and even with elegance. Some of her compositions, both in prose and verse, we have reason to believe, have appeared anonymously in print; and others, it is hoped, will be communicated to the public. In the morning, after studying and working at her needle, her Majesty generally accompanied the King in a ride, or in walking round the gardens, till dinner; after which, if there was no company, the Queen played on the harpsichord, to which also she sang in a very agreeable and scientific manner. In the evening there was commonly a select party at cards; though frequently the night closed with a little family ball, as the Queen was extremely fond of the exercise of dancing.

Thus passed their hours, as if they had presi-

ded merely in a genteel family, though Sovereigns of the most potent nation of ancient or modern history.

On the 17th of August, letters patent passed under the great seal, creating the young prince Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester; and some time about this period, Richmond-lodge, where his Majesty had frequently resided in the early part of his life, was settled on the Queen in case of survival. It was pulled down in 1802, and a new palace begun upon the spot, of which only the foundations were laid, with a few arched vaults that still remain; the King having given up that design, meaning to complete as a dowry-house for her Majesty the Gothic palace which still remains unfinished at Kew.

The royal christening took place on the 18th of September; and three days after, a grand installation of the Order of the Garter was held at Windsor, a ceremony of which the King was always very fond. In this excursion he was accompanied by the Queen, whose pride was to take pleasure in all his sources of delight.

Eton School was always distinguished by his Majesty's notice; and his first formal visit to it was on the 25th of September, accompanied by the Queen, when the royal pair were received with due form and solemnity by the masters and students, a speech being delivered by one of the

boys, and some sacred music performed in the chapel.

The royal visitors examined every thing with great attention, and expressed much satisfaction at their mode of reception; their departure was hailed by "*Vivant Rex et Regina;*" and a handsome present was left by his Majesty's order.*

The high opinion which the King always had of Eton is confirmed by an anecdote of Dr. James, a late prebendary of Worcester, and master of Rugby School. That gentleman was one day walking on the terrace at Windsor, accompanied by Dr. Heath, provost of Eton, when his Majesty came up, and congratulated Dr. James very heartily upon his enlargement and improvement of the school at Rugby;—"but it is no wonder," continued the King, "that you have been so successful, having been yourself educated at Eton!"

Numerous addresses were presented in the month of October from the various clerical and corporate bodies in the empire; and it is worthy of serious remark, that the clergy, whom it has been the fashion for modern reformers to designate as tools of tyranny, were actually amongst the most rational assertors of liberty, as connected with our monarchical constitution, the address of

* This present amounted to 250*l.*; and soon after his Majesty sent 400*l.* to King's College, New York, and 200*l.* to a College at Philadelphia.

the province of Canterbury stating their conviction that the hereditary good disposition of the young Prince would be solicitously strengthened and improved by the daily instruction and example of his parents, who, they were assured, would complete their merit to these nations by forming his youthful mind to the love of liberty, and of our civil and ecclesiastical constitution; to a judicious zeal for the prosperity of Britain; and a sincere benevolence for mankind in general.

His Majesty, in return, assured them that he accepted with thanks their good wishes and regard thus expressed for the Queen, and saw with particular pleasure their gratitude to Heaven for the birth of a protestant heir. He added, that their opinion of his fixed intention to educate that prince in every principle of civil and religious liberty was truly acceptable to him; and desired them to be confident, that no endeavour on his part should be wanting to promote the sacred interests of Christian piety, and of moral virtue, and to transmit to posterity our most happy constitution.

The dissenting clergy also uttered sentiments equally devoted to liberty, yet not less loyal and decorous, hailing the young Prince as the grand prop to their hopes of a continuation of the Brunswick family, looking forward to him as the future friend of religion and virtue, the patron of

genius, learning, and knowledge, the guardian of liberty, the triumph of Britain, and the delight of human kind; and "when you, great sir, shall have arrived to the fulness of years, prosperity, and glory, then, and not till then, may he succeed to the same honours, and reign with equal dignity, happiness, and renown."

A slight change took place in the royal household in November by the Duke of Marlborough succeeding his Grace of Devonshire as Lord Chamberlain; and on the 22d the preliminaries of peace were ratified, though, strange to say, accompanied by a great degree of popular discontent and clamour. It is needless, however, to enter upon the terms of the peace, which was generally unpopular; so much so, indeed, that much obloquy was thrown upon the youthful Monarch, notwithstanding his display of the most irreproachable manners, and of exemplary private virtues. Some even went so far as to assert that the ambassador had actually sold his country, and that one exalted female, as well as Lord Bute, had shared in the spoil; but the largest sum named as a bribe was too paltry to have had any effect even upon the most depraved minds, had they been placed in such a situation.

A curious circumstance in the ecclesiastical history of this country deserves notice here, as it took place some time about this period. Pearce,

bishop of Rochester and dean of Westminster, being now 73 years old, and finding himself declining in health and faculties, was anxious to resign all his preferments, and live upon his private fortune. For this purpose, he applied to Lord Bath to mention his wish to the King, who very graciously named a day and hour, when the bishop was admitted alone into the closet. He then repeated to his Majesty his wish to have some interval between the fatigues of business and eternity, and begged that the King would consult the proper persons about the legality and propriety of such a resignation. The King did so, and about two months afterwards informed the prelate that Lord Mansfield saw no objection; and that, although Lord Northington at first had some doubts, yet, on further consideration, he thought the request might be complied with. This singular and unprecedented event, however, was prevented, not by ecclesiastical, but political reasons; for Lord Bath proposing Bishop Newton to succeed him, the ministry took alarm at his interference; the King was told that the bishops disliked the design; and the bishop bowed submission.

1763.

In March 1763, the general peace was proclaimed, and the King had much to contend

against in domestic politics; but he sought his best reward in a consciousness of his own rectitude, and in the bosom of domestic enjoyment, where the partner of his joys and cares rendered his home a little Paradise.

She indeed escaped the clamour of the time. She was popular when Lord Bute's administration had rendered the King very much the reverse. She interested the people of England as a fruitful mother; and was considered with regard as a domestic woman; so much so, that Colonel Barre, then a violent opposition speaker, delivered a splendid eulogium on her "mild, tender, and unassuming virtues." Her good deeds were even then very numerous; yet few of them were known to the world, with the exception of one very praiseworthy arrangement; for one of the first acts of her Majesty's benevolence was the forming of an establishment for the daughters of decayed gentlemen, or orphans.—A house and grounds were purchased in Bedfordshire, and a lady of high attainments placed therein, at a salary of 500*l.* to instruct the pupils in embroidery, &c. They were taken in at 15 years of age. The produce of their labour was converted into ornaments for window-curtains, chairs, sofas, and bed-furniture, for Windsor Castle, and the Palace in St. James's Park.

Public discontent was, at this period, much

increased by the financial measures necessary for winding up the war expenses; amongst which the cider-tax became an ample subject of discussion, by the extension of the excise; and the City of London even went so far as to petition the King to refuse his assent to that measure. This, however, he could not do without at once dismissing his ministers; a measure indeed which soon after took place, for Lord Bute resigned on the 8th of April, 1763, to the great surprise of all parties, but probably at the personal instigation of the King himself, for the sake of domestic peace; yet his Majesty still retained for him his early friendship, and, indeed, never deserted him even when most unpopular.

Notwithstanding all the abuse that was thrown upon Bute in regard to his politics, and reflected from him upon his Majesty, it is but fair to record that his lordship had often previously declared, that he staid in office but to secure a peace which should have a probability of permanence; that he did retire when the peace was concluded; and that he retired without place or pension, disdaining to touch those tempting spoils which lay at his feet. But could he escape censure when, even then, it was so coarsely thrown upon his Majesty, who, since his accession to the throne, had voluntarily surrendered part of his prerogative, and part of his revenue, for the sake of

freedom; who had set before his subjects an uniform example of every private virtue: yet with all this, the melancholy truth was, that faction had been able, even then, to diminish most considerably that popularity justly due to him.

The Whigs of that day were severe upon the cider bill, because it would have extended the excise laws to every private house in the kingdom; it is strange that their successors thought not of that when, in power at a later period, they proposed a tax upon private brewing, which would have had precisely the same consequences.

Another change took place in the royal household, by Lord Gower succeeding the Duke of Marlborough; and on the 26th of April, Mr. George Grenville came in as first lord of the treasury, and chancellor of the exchequer. This, too, was the period of "Wilkes and Liberty," of which so much has been said, that to mention it is sufficient in this place. The order of Lord Halifax, secretary of state, on the 26th of April, to seize the author of the "North Briton," No. 45, was the signal for scenes of riot and confusion, that continued a disgrace to the metropolis for many months, and contributed much to excite a spirit of disloyalty to the King himself, who was joined by public clamour in all the odium thrown upon the character of Bute, and became

indeed extremely unpopular amongst the ignorant and unthinking.

The King foresaw the storm, and as early as this year set his face against violent party measures, and actually declared that he would not employ any persons in the state in the habit of forming themselves into combinations by dinner-parties; for which he was then much commended, though soon most roughly blamed. But these things did not interfere with his benevolence. When Lady Molesworth's house in Upper Brook-street was destroyed by fire on the 6th of May, her ladyship with two of her daughters perishing in the flames, and the other three, all young, only escaping with dreadful bruises and fractured limbs, the King no sooner became acquainted with the circumstance, than he sent to the unhappy survivors a handsome present, ordered a house to be taken for them at his own expense, and not only continued to them the pension settled upon their mother, but also made an addition to it.

We must not omit, that during the severity of the winter, his Majesty sent a bank-note of 1000*l.* to the Bishop of London, for distribution amongst the poor. He also exempted the principalities of Gottingen, Grubenhagen, and county of Sternberg, and several bailiwicks, which were chief sufferers by the war, from all taxes for three years, and furnished them (gratis) with materials

for rebuilding such towns as had been destroyed by the enemy.

On his birth-day this year, the Queen was anxious to adopt some measure of parade and splendour, that might attract public notice, and turn the minds of the metropolis in some degree from the rancorous ideas which then floated in public opinion: and for this purpose she prepared a grand masqued allegorical ball to take place a few days afterwards at Buckingham-house, accompanied with magnificently illuminated temples and other decorations in the gardens, so arranged also as to afford a grand surprise to his Majesty, who had been prevailed on to reside for a few days at St. James's, so as to afford time for preparation, and who, on arriving at the palace in the evening, was led into the drawing-room, from whence, the window-shutters being suddenly thrown open, he saw himself represented in a grand transparency, as giving peace to the world, surrounded by all the public and private virtues which for so many years distinguished him, whilst the vices of the day were trod beneath his feet.

But certainly the most extraordinary rejoicings on his birth-day, when he entered his twenty-sixth year, were those at Aylesbury, for which Mr. Wilkes sat as member, who took a very active personal share in the festivities, and abso-

lutely shewed himself off as the most loyal man in the three kingdoms.

Yet his extraordinary conduct did not escape the notice of observant politicians; nor did this shew of personal attachment to the sovereign prevent some persons from forming very harsh opinions respecting him.

In a letter of the Rev. C. Godwin, preserved by Mr. Nichols, alluding to the confinement of Wilkes, and his illness, it is expressly stated that "Dr. Parker, who is promoted to the great living of St. James's, told me lately that Mr. Pitt declares him to be an enemy to his God, and his king, and his country." Yet in a subsequent epistle, a few days afterwards, the same gentleman observes, "I am very glad to find that your sentiments of Mr. Pitt agree with mine. His behaviour to the Prince in a late memorable conference is so astonishing that nothing but an excessive degree of pride can account for it. The terms which he proposed were these: that full satisfaction be made to the Duke of Newcastle by re-instating all his friends; that every person who had approved of the peace be discarded; that the Tories be proscribed entirely; that all places, civil and ecclesiastical, be absolutely at his disposal; that Lord Temple be placed at the head of the treasury, and Lord Albemarle have the command of the army. The King's

answer was exactly in these words:—'Sir, I sent for you, because my people have a great opinion of your abilities; but if I accept the terms you propose, I shall neither do justice to myself nor to them.'"

Of this transaction a fuller account has been given which says, that on the death of Lord Egremont, a kind of party coalition took place, previously to which his Majesty sent for Mr. Pitt, and desired him to make the necessary arrangements; but so elated was he with the prospect before him, that he ventured to make the following demands:—himself to be secretary of state, and to have the disposal of all offices; Earl Temple to be first lord of the treasury, with three of his friends at the board; the Duke of Cumberland at the head of the army, with the power of naming the secretary at war; the Duke of Newcastle and his friends to be in the cabinet; and every man who had been concerned in making the peace, or voting for it, except Lord Halifax, to be displaced. On hearing this preposterous proposal, his Majesty said, "Sir, I believe, from my feelings as a man, I have offered as great sacrifices as ever monarch submitted to, merely for the good of my people, whose minds have been poisoned by ambitious and designing men; but you want to reduce me to such a situation, by disavowing my own act, and what my heart approves, and by giving up my friends

to a vain and factious resentment, that I should be unworthy of ever having another friend, and you yourself must first despise and then distrust me. No, sir, before I submit to these conditions, I will first put the crown on your head, and then submit my neck to the axe."

Soon after this, on the 16th of August, his Royal Highness the Duke of York was born,

1764.

The 1st of January, this year, presented the extraordinary circumstance of no birth-day ode being performed at court; and soon after followed another very happy reform, in the stoppage of all hazard-playing, as formerly practised on Twelfth-night, together with Sunday evening concerts, which the King pointedly noticed to all the household; arrangements highly creditable to his Majesty's good sense and strict notions of propriety. The court, however, was not deficient at this period in brilliancy and splendour, as the marriage of the Princess Augusta with the hereditary Prince of Brunswick afforded full scope to taste, fashion, and fancy. This match met with the King's warmest approbation, as he fully testified by a superb present to the royal bride of a necklace, estimated at 30,000*l.*, which, with other valuable jewels from the Queen, amounted almost to a princely fortune.

The remainder of the month, and February also, were occupied with the parliamentary and law proceedings in Wilkes's case; but the month of March displayed political features of more interest in the propositions submitted to the House of Commons for American taxation.

The right of the mother country to colonial taxation is not a subject for discussion here; but it certainly was a measure which the King took up very soon after coming to the throne; and in this year immediately following the close of the glorious seven years war, when economy was loudly called for, and was in fact absolutely necessary, he spoke of it to the prime minister Grenville, as a grand financial resource for the relief of pressure at home, from the expenses of a war that had been principally undertaken to produce security for the American colonies by repressing the intrusions of the French Canadians, and finally bringing Canada under the British sceptre.

Grenville was startled at hearing this proposition from the King, though not from its novelty, if we can give credit to his answer, when he replied that he had frequently thought on the subject, but believed it to be difficult, nay, impracticable, whilst the very attempt could not fail to be productive of the most alarming consequences, even to the monarch himself. The King listened

to him, but was not convinced: and again introduced the subject with Grenville, who still objecting to the measure, his Majesty plainly told him, that if he was disinclined or afraid to make the attempt, others would be found with sufficient resolution to carry it through. The minister had now no alternative but to resign or make the experiment. He adopted the latter, but was unsuccessful in his early preparatory measures, and the plan was dropped, though not forgotten.

The propositions alluded to passed with very little notice in the two houses of legislature, and without exciting any particular alarm in the public mind, which was completely filled with "Wilkes and Liberty;" but they were more narrowly scrutinized in the colonies, on whose coasts the British cruizers acted as revenue cutters, seizing many vessels and cargoes—acts which were followed up by the Americans with resolutions against British manufactures of all kinds; a strong spirit of discontent pervading the whole population, and being then apparently ready to burst out into popular commotion.

The idea of American taxation was by no means a new one. When Sir Robert Walpole in 1733 failed in his scheme of introducing the excise, one of the American governors proposed to him a tax upon that country; to which Walpole answered, "You see I have Old England already

set against me. Do you think that I can wish to have New England set against me also?"

The public feeling at this period, in the colonies, may be fully appreciated by a little anecdote of a person named Patrick Henry, who is said to have given the first impulse to the ball of the American revolution. This man was a member of the lower house of the Virginian legislature, where he brought forward a most violent resolution respecting the stamp act; exclaiming, towards the close of his speech—"Cæsar had his Brutus; Charles I. his Cromwell; and George the Third ——," on which the Speaker cried out "Treason!" a word that was echoed from a part of the house, in some measure alarming Henry, who faltered for a moment, but instantly rising to a loftier attitude, and fixing upon the Speaker an eye flashing with fire, continued his speech with the words, "—may profit by their example. If this be treason, make the most of it."

On the birth-day his Majesty was agreeably surprised by a present from the Queen, alike flattering to parental and conjugal love, consisting of a ring splendidly ornamented with brilliants, and containing an enamel, in which were the portraits of their little ones. This was the more honourable to her Majesty, inasmuch as she gave the preference to English artists in the execution of this

testimony of affectionate respect to her husband and sovereign.

His Majesty's taste for curious and ingenious mechanism was exemplified this year, by a repeating watch, made under his own immediate directions by Mr. Arnold, the celebrated chronometer manufacturer. It was rather less than a silver two-pence, yet contained one hundred and twenty different parts; the whole weighed between five and six pennyweights.

He also, about this time, further displayed his mechanical and astronomical skill, by the instructions given to Mr. Norton, an ingenious watchmaker of St. John Street, for a time-piece, finished in 1765, which was constructed with four faces. One of these shewed true and apparent time, with the rising and setting of the sun, for every day in the year, by a moving horizon, pointing out also the lengthening and shortening of the days, and the true time in all parts of the globe. The next had a solar system, or orrery, shewing the motion of the planets, agreeable to the Copernican system. The third pointed out the age and phases of the moon, with the time of high water at thirty two principal sea-ports. But the most complicated of all was the fourth, which, by a curious retrograde motion in a spiral, shewed the days of the month and year, also the months, and days of the week. The whole was planned by

the King himself: but the mechanical calculations for the solar system were made by Dr. Bevis; and for the moon and tides, by Ferguson.

Their Majesties had an opportunity in the autumn of displaying their benevolence towards a number of unhappy Germans, that were thrown upon the humanity of the British nation by a rascally adventurer, who, like many others at the present day, had speculated in American lands ignorantly and improvidently, and had involved numbers in the fatal consequences of his own ruin.

These poor creatures, natives of the Palatinate of Bavaria and Wurtzburg, to the number of six hundred, had been induced to embark at one of the German ports, for the purpose of being carried to the island of St. John's in the St. Lawrence, but their vessel, why or wherefore has never been fully understood, having been brought into the river, the whole of them were sent on shore pennyless, with the exception of two hundred, whose passage-money had not been previously paid, and even these were subjected to the greatest privations of hunger, thirst, &c.

Of those sent on shore, and who for some nights slept in the fields around Limehouse, the sufferings were extreme; mothers bringing forth in all the inclemency of the season, and expiring from want even of the common necessaries: and it was

not until the case was made known by a German pastor, through the daily papers, that any relief was extended towards them. But no sooner did the fact reach his Majesty than he instantly sent orders to the Tower for tents to be furnished, and paid the passage-money of those detained on board, directing also that an immediate supply of provisions should be issued to them, until a subscription should be completed, which the Queen had begun amongst the nobility and gentry round the court, and to which the King subscribed 300*l.* a similar sum being also paid by her Majesty.

As the unhappy people had no wish to return home, an asylum was offered them in South Carolina and Georgia, which they gladly accepted of, and whither they were sent by the King's express directions, and not only supplied with all necessary comforts during the passage, but also established on their arrival, so as to be able to maintain themselves.*

* This was an important year in the history of Europe: Poniatowski by Russian influence became King of Poland; previous to which the Empress Catherine had become Autocrat of Russia. Joseph II. was crowned Emperor of Germany. Paoli took the lead in the Corsican attempts at liberty; and the Jesuits were expelled from France.

We have seen a copy of a letter from his Majesty, about this period, addressed to the King of Poland, and said to be written

The spirit of discovery, which had long animated the European nations, having, after its arduous and successful exertions during the 15th and 16th centuries, gradually subsided, and for a considerable time lain dormant, began to revive in Great Britain in the reign of George II. when two voyages for the discovery of a north-west passage took place under Middleton and Smith. But it was reserved for the reign of George III. to see it recover all its former activity, under his cherishing influence and munificent encouragement.

Having now happily closed the destructive operations of war, he turned his thoughts to enterprises more humane, but not less brilliant, adapted to the season of returning peace. While every liberal art and useful study, says the learned editor of "Cook's Third Voyage," flourished under his patronage at home, his superintending care was extended to such branches of knowledge as required distant examination and inquiry; and

with his own hand, which deserves insertion here, though we cannot absolutely vouch for its authenticity.

"Sir, and Brother,

"It is with much satisfaction that I have learned, by a private letter, the agreeable news that your Majesty has been elected King and possessor of the throne of Poland. This election, made with so much tranquillity, and so unanimously, will one day enrich the annals of that kingdom; and your

his ships, after bringing back victory and conquest from every quarter of the known world, were now to be employed in opening friendly communications with its hitherto unexplored recesses.

In consequence of this determination, Commodore Byron departed in 1764; followed by Captain Wallis, and successively by the immortal Cook; so that actually in little more than seven years, at the close of Cook's first voyage, discoveries were made far greater than those of all the navigators in the world collectively, since the expedition of Columbus, and the first discovery of America. These voyages were liberally conducted, and as liberally given to the world at large.

subjects have the greatest reason to promise themselves every thing from their Sovereign, who, in his own private travels, having seen the different courts of Europe, and known them all, will the better know how, of course, to govern his subjects as becomes a king, to watch over their preservation, and to defend their laws and their liberties.

"The pleasure I feel at recalling to my remembrance the esteem, which I conceived for you on my own part, increased that which I now feel in felicitating your Majesty, on your advancement to the throne; and I embrace this opportunity, with much ardour, to assure your Majesty of the sincere friendship with which I am,

"Sir and Brother,

"Your affectionate friend,

"At St. James's, "G. R."

"9th October 1764."

We are assured that it was in the course of this year, in a conversation with his uncle the Duke of Cumberland, that the King was first prompted to that extreme temperance, added to his usual severe exercise which had marked him from early life, which he practised with the greatest resolution and forbearance for many succeeding years. Lamenting the Duke's extreme corpulence, that Prince assured him that he conceived him likely to be as corpulent long before he should attain an age equal to that of the Duke, unless he added great renunciation and temperance to his personal exercise. To this the King scarcely replied: but it made a great impression upon him; so much so that on that very day he commenced a most rigid system of restraint upon his palate, resisting every temptation to indulgence, and condemning himself to eat alone, of the plainest food and in small quantity, lest family conviviality should lead him beyond his strict rules of temperance and negation.

1765.

The disputes with the American colonies had already become of such import in 1765, that the King took public notice of them in his speech to Parliament on the 10th of January, in which he expressed his reliance on the firmness and wisdom of both Houses, in promoting that obedience to

the laws and respect to the legislative authority of Britain, which were so essentially necessary to the safety of the whole. He also intimated his consent to the marriage of his sister with the young King of Denmark, a match so fraught with subsequent misery to that unhappy Princess.

On the 26th he granted his royal charter to the Society of Artists in Great Britain; but neither his attention to the arts and to science, nor the virtues of his private life, could secure him from the diabolical spirit of revolution that had already begun to manifest itself, particularly on the 29th of January, the anniversary of Charles's murder, when hand-bills were distributed through the metropolis to a great extent, on which was printed, in capitals,

"THIS DAY, LIBERTY!"

a proceeding evidently connected with the machinations of Wilkes and his reforming adherents.

In February a whimsical petition was presented from the peruke-makers, humbly beseeching his Majesty, in consideration of their distressed condition, occasioned by so many people wearing their own hair and employing foreigners to cut and dress it, or when they employ natives obliging them to work on the Lord's day, to the neglect of duty to God, that he would be pleased to grant them relief; submitting to his Majesty's goodness and wisdom, whether his own example was not the only means of rescuing them from their dis-

tress, as far as it occasioned so many people wearing their own hair.

The deputation, even though on so absurd a principle, was graciously received; and the King answered, that "he had nothing dearer to his heart than the happiness of his people; and that they might be assured he should at all times use his endeavours to promote their welfare." He did not indeed take the hint thus given him; and it was a remark at the time, that several of the petitioners actually wore their own hair, a circumstance eagerly caught at by the mob, who took the liberty of fitting them for wigs on their return from court.

This was whimsically ridiculed by a pretended petition from the carpenters, requesting his Majesty, for the good of trade, to wear a wooden leg.

These petitions were followed by one on the ensuing day from the hatters, who complained of their business being engrossed by foreigners, "to the ruin of many hundreds of his Majesty's subjects."

Though the King was only a seven months' child, yet he was born with such a sound and vigorous frame of body, that he was seldom incommoded by sickness, or by indisposition of any kind: but in March this year he was seized with a complaint which continued for several weeks, and which was even then secretly reported to have

resembled that malady which since so unhappily secluded him from the view of his subjects, and from the exercise of his royal functions. How far these reports were founded in fact, it is now perhaps impossible to ascertain; though it may fairly be surmised even from his speech to parliament on the 24th of April, after his recovery, when he came down to the House to propose a regency, having previously appeared in public at a levee on the 5th of that month.

In his speech he said—"My late indisposition, though not attended with danger, has led me to consider the situation in which my kingdoms and my family might be left, if it should please God to put a period to my life whilst my successor is of tender years." After which, he proposed that a power should be given him to appoint from time to time, under the sign manual, either the Queen or any other person of the royal family residing in Britain, to be guardian and regent until the heir should attain the age of eighteen, but subject to the restrictions of a Regency Act already passed in the reign of George II. in which the Princess Dowager had been nominated the regent in case of a minority.

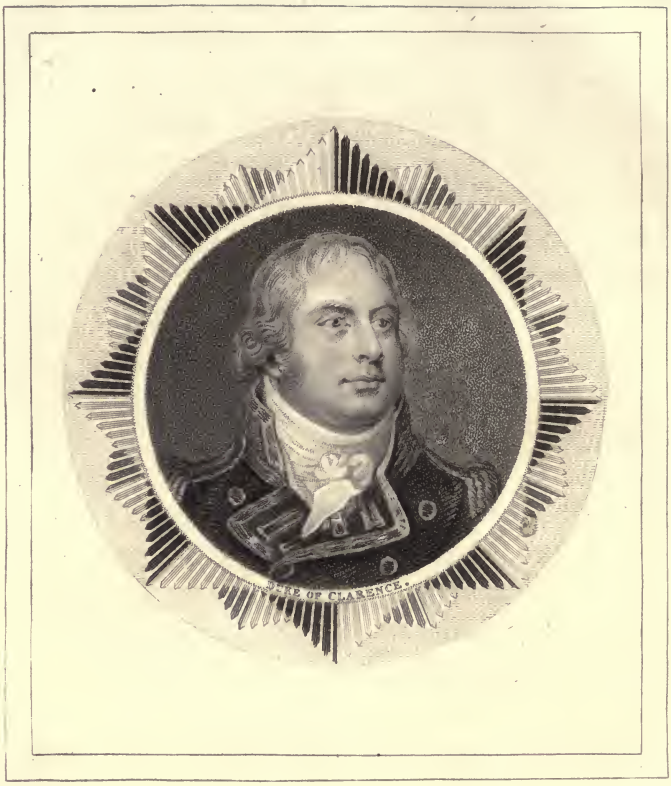
The bill was brought in, but the party politics of the day endeavoured to prevent her Royal Highness from even being named a member of the council of regency; a measure in which part

of the cabinet joined, through jealousy of her influence. It passed however on the 15th of May; but was followed by a complete change of ministry. Although Lord Bute had resigned his ministerial situation, yet he was still supposed to be the private director of the political machine, through backstairs influence. There certainly was still a private friendship between the King and his quondam governor; but there is now, when party spirit is at rest, every reason to believe the charge ill founded, though it gained great credit from the repeated instances of Lord Bute's going to Carlton-house, the residence of the Princess Dowager, *incognito* in an evening, at which time it was also customary for the King to visit his mother, and the public of course supposed that the meeting formed a kind of private cabinet for regulating the operations of the ostensible ministry.

That these suspicions were incorrect, and that the King's firmness and good sense saved him from such degradation, is clear, from an anecdote recorded on good authority, of a check which the youthful Monarch gave to a palpable attempt on the part of the ex-minister to obtrude upon his confidence. The anecdote states that the Princess Dowager of Wales was anxious for Bute's return to office, a wish in which that nobleman joined; in consequence of which a plan was laid

to take the King by surprise, so that Lord Bute should, as if by chance, obtain permission to see the first dispatches received by the King whilst at Carlton-house; it being frequently the custom for the secretary of state to transmit them at those periods. No sooner did the green box, with letters and papers, make its usual appearance, than the King, as usual, rose up to retire into another apartment in order to peruse them in retirement; but Lord Bute officiously took up two candles, and preceded the King, as if going to his closet, in the hope that the King would desire him to remain in the room, and acquaint him with the contents, by which means he might slide into political business without any formality. But the young Monarch was on his guard; and, stopping at the door of the apartment, took the candles himself, bowed dismissal to the candidate, and shut the door: a hint fully understood, and considered as a final rejection.

By the ministerial changes, the Rockingham party came into power, and the Duke of Portland became lord chamberlain of the household; but the public were still unsatisfied, principally in consequence of the great encouragement given by the fashionable world to French and other foreign manufactures, in preference to our own—a preference which both the King and Queen did all in their power to check; her Majesty both by



HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

WILLIAM HENRY DUKE OF CLARENCE,

BORN AUGT 21 1765.

precept and example stimulating the ladies to wear home-made silks only, and the King causing his own birth-day to be solemnized with more than usual splendour, and announcing that it was expected nothing but British manufacture should be worn at court.

On the 15th of August the Duke of Clarence was born: and about this period the King was engaged in a dispute respecting the rights of his second son, who had been elected, in the preceding year, Bishop of Osnaburg; for though the ecclesiastical chapter obeyed his *congé d'élire* in the nomination to the princely mitre, yet they were unwilling to give up the management of the revenues during the minority of the young bishop; but the affair was at length referred to the superior judicature of the German Empire.*

On the 26th of December, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was invested with the insignia of the Garter at the early age of three years; but even this was not his first appearance in public life, as a short time previous he had received, in person, an address from the Ancient Britons, a society which has a peculiar claim to the patronage of the heir apparent. The address was with

* A scandalous story was circulated, about that period, of a *Bishop's* having been seen in bed with another man's wife! It was certainly true; for the Bishop of Osnaburgh was still at nurse!

great good sense well adapted to his infantine years, and he appeared perfectly capable of comprehending the stewards when they told him that his royal parents remembered no period of their lives too early for doing good, and hoped that when a few short years should call forth his virtues into action, he would remember with pleasure the occurrence of that day.

His Royal Highness, no doubt prepared by parental care for the occasion, listened with attention to the address, and distinctly repeated his answer—" Gentlemen, I thank you for this mark of duty to the King, and wish prosperity to this charity."

But the close of 1765 was most remarkable for a long list of deaths connected with royalty. On the 31st of October, the Duke of Cumberland died suddenly after passing the day with some of his royal relations, a loss much regretted by the nation, and also by his Majesty, though for some time past political differences had existed between them. The King's conduct on this occasion was not only praiseworthy but magnanimous; for when Lord Albemarle, the executor, presented him with the key of his uncle's cabinet, he immediately requested that nobleman to keep the key in his own possession, and to use his own judgment in examining all private papers, and in de-

stroying all such as the Duke himself might have wished to keep secret.*

The Dauphin of France, father to the present

* He was a prince of many virtues, and very liberal, of which the following is a proof:—In his march against the rebels, he halted one day at Penrith, where a lad, whose father had been many years a servant in the royal household, lived at that time in a very poor condition. The youth applied by a petition to his Royal Highness, praying for some assistance to enable him to prosecute his learning, and to earn an honest livelihood. To this request the Duke, notwithstanding his numerous engagements, returned a gracious answer, and ordered the petitioner to be introduced into his presence, when, after a short pause, he said, "I remember your father well; his honour and fidelity as a servant merited esteem. Could I be persuaded that you would follow his example, such a provision should be made for you as would enable you to live in a station worthy of his name. However, take this purse at present, and I give you my promise that when these troubles are over, and I survive, you shall find me your friend." Some time after, the young adventurer came to London to remind his Royal patron of his promise, and within a few days he was provided for in a good place at Windsor.

When the Duke commanded in Germany, he was particularly pleased with the ability and valour of a serjeant belonging to his own regiment. Having often observed the gallantry of this man, and made several inquiries into his private character, his Royal Highness took occasion, after a great exploit which the serjeant had performed, to give him a commission. Some time afterwards, this person came to the Duke, and entreated his leave to resign the rank which he held. Surprised at so extraordinary arequest, the Duke demanded the reason; and was

King, died on the 20th of December; and on the 28th there was another demise in our own Royal Family, that of Prince Frederic, his Majesty's youngest brother, in his 16th year.

On the 30th of the month the *old* Pretender, as he was called, died at Rome, in the 78th year of his age; having seen, since his birth, six sovereigns successively fill that throne which his unhappy but bigotted father, James II. lost for a mass. His two sons, since dead also issueless, were Charles Edward, of whom we have already given several anecdotes, and Henry, who took holy orders, and died a cardinal and titular King of England.

told by the applicant that he was now separated from his old companions by his elevation, and not admitted into the company of his brother officers, who considered themselves as degraded by his appointment. "Oh! is that the case?" said the Duke; "let the matter rest for a day or two, and I will soon find the means of putting an end to your disquietude." The next morning his Royal Highness went on the parade, where he was received by a circle of officers, and while he was engaged in conversation, he perceived his old friend walking at a distance by himself. On this the Duke said, "Pray, gentlemen, what has that officer done that he should be drummed out of your councils?" and without waiting for an answer he went up, took the man by the arm, and thus accompanied went through all the lines. When the parade was over, Lord Ligonier respectfully desired his Royal Highness to honour the mess with his presence that day. "With all my heart," replied the Duke, "provided I bring

The last day of the year was marked by his Majesty's annual bounty of 3000*l.*, distributed amongst poor housekeepers in London and Westminster; a charity peculiarly useful at that inclement season, and also enabling its objects to partake of the good cheer of the festive holidays.

1766.

The cause of the exiled Stuarts seems now to have lost its friends throughout Europe. Even at Rome, express orders were given that no person should presume to give the title of King to the Chevalier Charles; but this order being neglected, or rather disobeyed, by the friars of San Tomaso delli Inglesi, who had a college for the education of English Roman Catholics, the Scotch College,

my friend here with me." "I hope so," said his lordship; and from that day the gentleman's company was rather courted than shunned, by the highest officers in the service.

The Duke observed a uniform regular method to his labouring people at Windsor, which was that of never giving them any more pay than what others of a like condition received from their employers. He rather chose to give less than the nobility and gentry in that neighbourhood, in order that no improper advantages might be taken by other labourers to raise their wages. But he sufficiently made up for this trifling deficiency, by ordering his workmen every day at noon table-beer, with bread and cheese, besides which he gave them once or twice a-week a good substantial dinner. This was what his Royal Highness used to call old English hospitality.

and the two Irish convents, who all on four successive days thought fit to receive him with that kind of ceremony which is only usual towards the Pope and crowned heads, his Holiness no sooner received intelligence of the affair, than he issued his orders from Monte Cavallo, banishing the superiors of all those colleges and convents from the city of Rome.

About this period considerable prejudice had been excited against the King, particularly in the American colonies, by the official language of the ministry in their public dispatches, attributing to his Majesty certain private feelings far beyond what his own sentiments justified. These official forms represented the King as being "highly provoked," &c. with the early steps of the American independents; but from these unamiable charges he was vindicated by an able writer of the time, who observed that the King was in fact the father of his people—that he really viewed their errors and their crimes with that compassion with which parents regard the misconduct of their children—that it was with reluctance he lifted his hand to punish—and that it was not the being "provoked," but the necessity of preventing greater evils, the spirit of justice, and his paternal care for his obedient and loyal subjects, which could ever draw from him any mark of correction or chastisement. By this character he preserved the reverence of

his people; and it was therefore most judiciously urged, that to attribute to him those little passions which might perhaps at some times agitate the minds of his ministers, had a tendency to diminish his dignity, the confidence which his subjects placed in him, and the happiness of his people.

On the question of the repeal of the Stamp Act, it is also said that the King's name was unfairly used, and his sentiments misrepresented; circumstances which tended to excite a degree of unpopularity, that history must record, though certainly undeserved. At this period too, Lord Bute was publicly known to give up all state affairs; in fact now he made it a rule never to see the King in private: and though he continued to visit the Princess Dowager, yet he always retired by a private staircase, whenever the King arrived at her residence.

The personal friendship, however, which he always felt for the Prince and for the Sovereign did not grow cold; and as he was well acquainted with the King's taste for every thing curious in art and science, so it is well known that he never made an acquisition of any new work, or of any new mathematical instrument, of which he had many constructed or improved under his own direction, without sending a duplicate to the royal library. Indeed, even the superb work

which he produced on botany in nine volumes quarto, and at an enormous expense, was undertaken at the particular request of the Queen: and he allowed only sixteen copies to be struck off for the great libraries of Europe, and a few particular friends. It is much to be lamented that the popular clamour excited at this period against men, more than against measures, was so much encouraged by political parties; for that a little political tranquillity would have restored the King to his due share of popularity, the following fact will evince.

His Majesty being expected to go down to Parliament on the 14th of May, for the purpose of giving the royal assent to a bill prohibiting the importation of foreign-wrought silks and velvets, and also to prevent unlawful combinations of workmen employed in the silk manufacture, several thousand weavers attended at St. James's, with streamers flying, music playing, and drums beating, and accompanied the state procession to the House of Peers; after which they attended his Majesty back to the palace, with the loudest acclamations of joy. On their return to Spitalfields, the whole body halted before the Mansion-house, exhibiting all their standards, from which flew streamers of all colours, composed of long slips of their own manufactures. After giving three

loyal cheers, and playing "God save the King," the delighted artisans returned peaceably to their own humble habitations.

Another change of ministry took place at the latter end of July, when the Duke of Grafton succeeded Lord Rockingham as first lord of the treasury, and the Earl of Chatham as lord privy seal. The Earl of Shelburne also became secretary of state for the home department; the foreign having been previously filled in May by General Conway, on whose appointment the following witticism has been recorded of Hume the historian, who being asked if he was not much surprised that a *general officer* should have that promotion, "Not at all, sir," says Hume; "consider the political interests of Great Britain are always best supported by *men of war*."

It is a curious fact, that when Hume was complimented by a noble marquis on the correctness of his stile, particularly in his History of England, he observed, "If he had shewn any peculiar correctness, it was owing to the uncommon care he took in the execution of his work, as he wrote it over *three times* before he sent it to the press." Yet notwithstanding his extreme care he made a most egregious blunder; for, having asserted in his history, that if ever the national debt came up to *one hundred millions* this country would be ruined, he was asked by a friend, how he could make such

a mistake, seeing that the debt was then far above that sum, and likely to be much more? "Owing to a mistake, sir," says he, "common to *writers by profession*, who are often obliged to adopt statements on the authority of other people.*"

The Royal Family, notwithstanding public dissensions, still went on increasing in harmony and in number; and on the 24th of September her Majesty presented the King with a daughter, the present Queen Dowager of Wirtemburgh.

On the 1st of October in this year, the amiable and ill-fated Princess Caroline Matilda, who had but recently entered the sixteenth year of her age, was married by proxy in the royal chapel at St. James's, to Christian VII. King of Denmark; forced by state policy to enter, unwillingly it is said, into the first solemn covenant of her future woes. The unhappy, and, now as it is believed, unjust fate of that amiable sufferer, deserves some further notice, particularly as she, from her tenderest years, displayed the most endearing vivaciousness, and a sweetness of temper that could not fail to engage the affections of her attendants. When she attained the age of discernment, her heart and her mind became susceptible of the most generous sentiments, and all her instructions were calculated to make her shine in the highest

* The whole debt amounted to 130 millions; with the annual charge of 4,698,656l.

sphere with reputation and dignity. Her acquirements were liberal, her knowledge of English literature extensive, and of foreign languages beyond her years. Her person was graceful, her manners elegant, her voice sweet and melodious, and her countenance most prepossessing. Her disposition was most amiable; and several indigent families at Kew, where this charming Princess was not so much restrained by the etiquette of a court, as in the capital, often experienced her beneficence and liberality, and frequently obtained considerable relief from her privy purse.

Such was the woman sacrificed to a man she had never seen; and though, upon the occasion of her marriage, the usual compliments on such events forced from the young Queen some smiles of condescension, yet it was evident to the by-standers that her mind was agitated with divers doubts and apprehensions, the natural results of her sensibility. Indeed, from the very first this alliance seemed never to have met her wishes, or to have afforded her any satisfactory contemplations; on the contrary, it was observed by the ladies of her acquaintance, after the alliance was declared, that she became pensive, reserved, and disquieted, although always gracious, without taking upon herself more state, or requiring more homage from the persons admitted into her presence. Soon after the ceremony, she left her native country with

deep regret; but her subsequent history is too well known to need further mention here.

The Polish protestants, or dissidents, as they were called, having for some time been deprived of their former rights and privileges, and their liberty of worship being taken away at the instigation of the Romish clergy, his Majesty, convinced that this was an unjust attack upon the protestant religion as such, without any sufficient cause arising from temporal politics, took up the subject personally; and on the 4th of November, a day marked in the protestant cause, the British ambassador presented a memorial to the King of Poland on that subject, which restored the poor suffering people to full liberty of conscience and a just toleration.

A slight alteration took place in the royal household on the 4th of December, by the Earl of Hertford coming in as lord chamberlain, in the room of the Duke of Portland; and it was at the close of this year that his Majesty conferred, or rather restored, the first dukedom, of Northumberland, that of the title of Montague being the second, or last, that he ever gave or intended to grant, with the exception of his own sons and brothers, such being the highest title in his power to confer even upon a member of the Royal Family. There can be no doubt, however, that he would cheerfully and spontaneously have waived

his determination in the case of the illustrious Wellington, of whom his Majesty heard in some lucid intervals, as has been reported, and fully approved of the rapid honours that were conferred upon him.

It was not until 1784 that the King thought fit to create a marquis, the late Marquis of Buckingham, though they have since become pretty numerous, as well as earldoms, the first of which he granted in 1761 to the Earl of Delawar. Viscount Wentworth in 1762 was the first of that class of nobility in his reign; and the first baron was Lord Grantham, but preceded by the barony of Mount Stuart, granted to the Countess of Bute on the 3d of April, 1761.

Though his Majesty was no freethinker at this period, yet such was his regard for literature, that he granted a pension to Rousseau, who took shelter in England from his enemies at home. But Rousseau was a man that could not fail to make himself enemies every where, as he did even in England; many curious particulars of which are well recorded in Ritchie's Life of Hume, who seems at this time to have been his master of the ceremonies; the philosopher, however, appears to have behaved very ill to the historian. His Majesty certainly had some anxiety lest the granting of this pension should appear like giving countenance to the whims of the misanthropic infidel,

for he insisted that it should not be made known to the public. Rousseau most gratefully accepted the royal favour, particularly expressing his thanks for the manner in which it was bestowed; but when he quarrelled with Hume, he, like a petted child, threw up the grant, yet indicating at the same time a desire to keep it, provided he should be courted to do so. That however was what a King of England could not condescend to do towards an arrogant Frenchman, who has since been praised by Madame de Stael for his independent spirit in refusing English money, as if the royal bounty to a starving adventurer was a literary or political bribe.

There is a curious speculation recorded of another French philosopher respecting England at that period, in the person of Voltaire, who, having heard it asserted in conversation that our national debt amounted to one hundred and forty-eight millions sterling, was at first incredulous of the fact, but being at length convinced of its truth, he with great quickness turned it into French livres, and exclaimed that so many minutes had not elapsed since the creation; forgetting, for the moment, the extreme antiquity which he had himself contended for, of this our globe, founded on the fables of the Chinese astronomers.

On making the calculation, however, agreeable to the Mosaic account, as substantiated by the

immortal Newton, the number of minutes was actually found to be 341,815 less than the number of livres.

Amongst other literary anecdotes of his Majesty at this period, is one connected with the great Colossus of Literature, the much praised and often vilified author of the Rambler. We give it as detailed by his biographer, the indefatigable Boswell:

The King, being informed that Dr. Johnson occasionally visited the royal library, gave orders that he should be told when the doctor came thither again, that he might have the pleasure of his conversation. This was done; and no sooner was the doctor seated, than the librarian went to communicate the information to his Majesty, who condescended immediately to repair to the spot. Johnson, on being told that the King was in the room, started up, and stood still. The King, after the usual compliments, asked some questions about the libraries of Oxford, where the doctor had lately been, and inquired if he was then engaged in any literary undertaking. Johnson replied in the negative; adding, that he had pretty well told the world what he knew, and must now read to acquire more knowledge. The King said, "I do not think you borrow much from any body." Johnson said, he thought that he had already done his part as a writer. "I should have

thought so too," said his Majesty, "if you had not written so well." The King having observed that he supposed he must have read a great deal, Johnson answered, that he thought more than he read: that he had read a great deal in the early part of his life, but having fallen into ill health, he had not been able to read much compared with others; for instance, he said, he had not read much compared with Dr. Warburton. On this the King said, that he had heard Dr. Warburton was a man of such general knowledge, that you could scarce talk with him on any subject on which he was not qualified to speak; and that his learning resembled Garrick's acting in its universality. His Majesty then talked of the controversy between Warburton and Lowth, and asked Johnson what he thought of it. Johnson answered, "Warburton has most general—most scholastic learning; Lowth is the more correct scholar: I do not know which of them calls names best." The King was pleased to say he was of the same opinion; adding, "You do not think then, Dr. Johnson, there was much argument in the case?" Johnson said, he did not think there was. "Why truly," said the King, "when once it comes to calling names, argument is pretty well at an end."

His Majesty next asked him what he thought of Lord Lyttelton's history, which was then just published. Johnson said, he thought his style

pretty good, but that he had blamed Henry too much. "Why," said the King, "they seldom do these things by halves." "No, Sir," answered Johnson, "not to kings." But fearing to be misunderstood, he subjoined, that "for those who spoke worse of kings than they deserved, he could find no excuse; but that he could more easily conceive how some might speak better of them than they deserved, without any ill intention; for as kings had much in their power to give, those who were favoured by them would frequently, from gratitude, exaggerate their praises; and, as this proceeded from a good motive, it was certainly excusable, as far as error could be excusable." The King then asked him what he thought of Dr. Hill. Johnson answered, that he was an ingenious man, but had no veracity; and immediately mentioned, as an instance of it, an assertion of that writer—that he had seen objects magnified to a much greater degree by using three or four microscopes at a time, than by using one. "Now," added Johnson, "every one acquainted with microscopes knows, that the more of them he looks through, the less the object will appear." "Why," replied the King, "this is not only telling an untruth, but telling it clumsily; for if that be the case, every one who can look through a microscope will be able to detect him." But that he might not leave an unfavourable impression against

an absent man, the doctor added, that Dr. Hill was, notwithstanding, a very curious observer; and if he would have been contented to tell the world no more than he knew, he might have been a very considerable man, and needed not to have recourse to such mean expedients to raise his reputation." The King then talked of literary journals, mentioned particularly the Journal des Sçavans, and asked Johnson if it was well done. Johnson said it was formerly well done, and gave some account of the persons who began and carried it on for some years; enlarging at the same time on the nature and use of such works. The King asked him if it was well done now. Johnson answered, he had no reason to think it was. The King next inquired if there were any other literary journals published in this kingdom except the Monthly and Critical Reviews; and on being assured there was no other, his Majesty asked which of them was the best. Johnson said, that the Monthly Review was done with the most care, the Critical upon the best principles; adding, that the authors of the former were hostile to the church. This the King said he was sorry to hear.

The conversation next turned on the Philosophical Transactions, when Johnson observed, that the Royal Society had now a better method of arranging their materials than formerly. "Aye," said the King, "they are obliged to Dr. Johnson

for that;" for his Majesty remembered a circumstance which Johnson himself had forgotten. His Majesty next expressed a desire to have the literary biography of this country ably executed, and proposed to the doctor to undertake it: and with this wish, so graciously expressed, Johnson readily complied.

During this interview the doctor talked with profound respect, but still in his firm manner, with a sonorous voice, and never in that subdued tone which is common at the levee and the drawing-room. Afterwards he observed to Mr. Barnard, the librarian, "Sir, they may talk of the King as they will; but he is the finest gentleman I have ever seen." And he also observed at another time to Mr. Layton, "Sir, his manners are those of as fine a gentleman as we may suppose Louis the Fourteenth or Charles the Second."

At the time when the works of Hume, and other writers of the same stamp, occasioned more noise than they deserved, his Majesty, who was always free in expressing his zeal for religion, said one day very happily, in allusion to the powerful genius of our great moralist, and the impertinence of the sceptical tribe, "I wish Johnson would mount his dray-horse, and ride over those fellows."

It is well known that he also exerted the royal influence to prevent the publication of Hume's

Essay on, or Defence of Self-murder, after that philosopher's decease.

A courtly anecdote of this period is recorded by Bishop Warburton in one of his letters, where he says, "I brought, as usual, a bad cold with me to town, and this being the first day I ventured out of doors, it was employed, as in duty bound, at court, it being a levee-day. A buffoon lord in waiting (you may guess whom I mean) was very busy marshalling the circle; and he said to me without ceremony, 'Move forward; you clog up the doorway.' I replied with as little, 'Did nobody clog up the King's doorway more than I, there would be room for all honest men.' This brought the man to himself. When the King came up to me, he asked why I did not come to town before? I said I understood there was no business going forward in the House, in which I could be of service to his Majesty. He replied that he supposed the severe storm of snow would have brought me up. I replied that I was under cover of a warm house. You see by all this how unfit I am for courts."

In the course of this year his Majesty, in the fullest and most particular manner, evinced the truth of his repeated promises to support and encourage the manufactures of Britain to their greatest possible extent—an event which, in fact, may be said to have laid the foundation

of that immense system of manufacture which has raised the northern and middle counties to their present opulence. In a period of disloyalty and disaffection, these truths cannot be too much inculcated.

Early in March, steps were taken in the House of Commons for the regulation of the West India trade, one of which was, to direct that the appointed Committee should consider and report on the proper methods for the encouragement of the importation of cotton-wool into this kingdom.

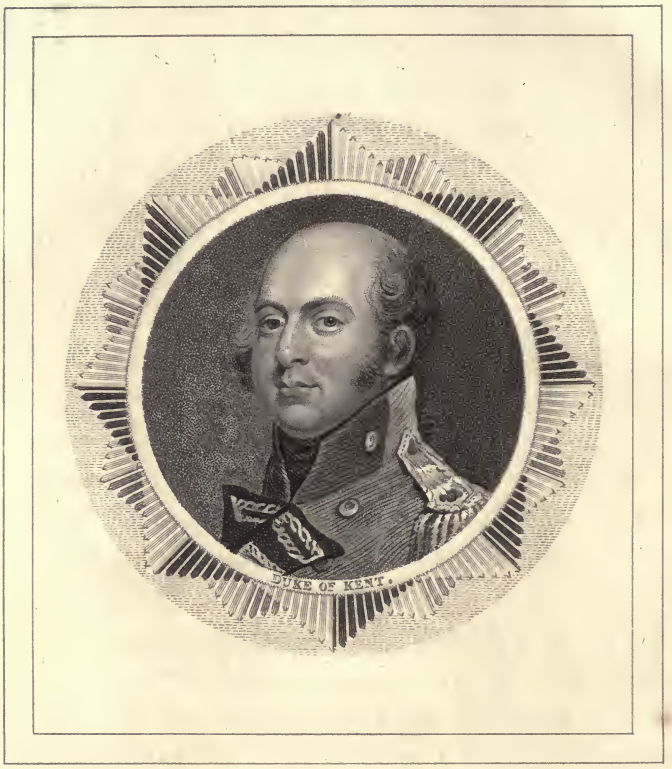
In pursuance of that report, a bill was brought into the House on the 15th of May; and in its course, a motion being made for an instruction to the Committee, empowering them to make provision in the bill for permitting the exportation of cotton-wool from the British colonies in America, free from the payment of duty, the chancellor of the exchequer instantly acquainted the House, that he had it in command from his Majesty to say, that although the four and half per cent. duty, especially called his Majesty's duty, appeared to be an increasing revenue, yet the patriot King, desirous of contributing to the improvement of the manufactures of this empire, was very willing to yield up that revenue, and gave his consent most cheerfully that the House might do therein as they should think fit.

For this generous condescension it was in-

stantly resolved unanimously, that an humble address should be presented to his Majesty, to return the most humble and grateful thanks of the House, for the fresh instance, which his Majesty had been pleased to give, of his great attention to the improvement of the trade and manufactures of this kingdom in his gracious message.

This, in fact, was not only a great boon to British trade, but a most important grant in a constitutional point of view, inasmuch as it was a part of the hereditary revenue, over which the House of Commons had no controul, and therefore a revenue which no monarch would have willingly given up, whose intentions had been arbitrary, or who had possessed the slightest wish to pursue a system of bribery or corruption, of which his Majesty was even then most falsely accused.

It is true that at the revolution this duty had been appropriated, as part of the household grant, to WILLIAM; but in the first year of ANNE it was considered that, as this revenue was granted by the people of Barbadoes and the Leeward Islands, for the support of their own government, it ought not to be appropriated by the Parliament of England, nor applied to the support of the civil government of England, for which reason it was then expressly excepted in the Act of Parliament, appropriating the other hereditary revenues



HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

EDWARD, DUKE OF KENT.

BORN NOV^R 2.1767.—DIED JAN^Y 23.1820.

to the support of the civil list. The result was, therefore, that the four and half per cent. duty on exports from the West Indies, was from that period payable to the King upon the throne, over and above the revenue settled upon him by Parliament, for the support of the civil list as at present established.

The 16th of September, 1767, was remarkable as the first day of Lord North coming into office as chancellor of the exchequer, but not as first lord of the treasury till 1770; and on the ensuing day his Majesty lost his favourite brother, the Duke of York, at the age of twenty-nine, who expired at Monaco in Piedmont, where he was attacked by a fever, on his way to the various Italian courts. On the 2d of November the Duke of Kent was born; and shortly afterwards a general mourning was ordered for his Royal Highness the Duke of York.

The shortening of court and general mournings, on account of home-trade, is not a novelty; for we find that on this occasion, his Majesty, in compassion to such manufacturers and people in trade, as by the usual length of court mournings would be, in that period of general scarcity and dearness of provisions, deprived in a great degree of the means of getting bread, of his own free act and judgment declared his intention that all mourning should be curtailed, and directed the

lord chamberlain to take the proper steps for that purpose.

This was done some short time afterwards, when a great number of Spitalfields weavers, both masters and journeymen, went in grand procession through the metropolis to St. James's Palace, in order to return their thanks to his Majesty. This expression of public feeling and gratitude was most graciously received, and afforded the King great satisfaction.

1768.

In the early part of this year his Majesty made some changes in the ministry, General Conway resigning the secretaryship of state in favour of Lord Weymouth; and a new secretaryship was also created for the Colonies, the affairs of North America apparently coming now to a crisis. To this office the Earl of Hilsborough was appointed; and he soon had full employment in its duties, as it was in February of this year that the legislature of Massachusetts declared taxation by the British parliament to be unconstitutional, and started the first idea of a general congress amongst the states.

To enter into all the proceedings of this period is beyond our plan; but we may observe, that much of the personal odium thrown upon the King, in consequence of the language used in

the state papers of that day, was very unjustly applied.

That his Majesty was anxious to preserve his own dominion over the Colonies cannot surely be matter of just reproach: nor can we blame him for wishing to preserve, in a national point of view, those lands for which Britain, during the last twenty years particularly, had shed so much blood, and expended so much treasure. Had the King, indeed, been possessed of the gift of prophecy, he might perhaps at once, on his own part, have conceded independence to those Colonies, and left them to defend themselves against the attacks of France, whose armies, acting as enemies, would have carried on a more decisive warfare than was either possible or politic for British troops to do, even at the very height of the revolutionary war; but would the nation, at home, have consented to such a dereliction of power, and to such a total change of policy?—To that question we may safely answer, *No!*

In such a case there was no middle course to steer. There exists sufficient proof to shew that the Americans would not tax themselves for the British treasury, though they expected the mother country still to protect them, even without allowing her to remunerate herself by the exclusive commerce of her own Colonies.

Now the individual wishes of the King were but

those of a majority of the nation; but then all the harsh threats held out being in his name, the Americans, not aware of the customary forms of government papers, considered him individually as their personal enemy, an idea caught at and fostered by their friends, and by the friends of riot at home, who at length succeeded in convincing a great part of the nation that the contest was between the King and Colonies solely, and was unconnected with the general rights of the nation.

This opinion had already spread considerably, and tended much to foment those riots connected with the return of Wilkes from his outlawry, who had previously applied to the Duke of Grafton to solicit a pardon from the King. This application being treated with the contempt it deserved, Wilkes, expecting a dissolution of Parliament, actually came over, and had the insolence to address a letter to the King, which he sent to him by a common footman. The affair is well detailed in Almon's publication, where also may be seen full details of the unhappy disturbances in St. George's fields.

Though Wilkes's outlawry, through some formal technicality, was declared illegal by the Court of King's Bench, he did not escape due punishment for his two libels, his fines amounting to 1000*l.* and his imprisonments to two and twenty months.

The month of May exhibited one of the shortest sessions of parliament which this country has witnessed; its meeting taking place on the 10th, when an act was passed against the exportation of corn, and loyal addresses presented with assurances of parliamentary support to his Majesty, followed by a prorogation on the 21st of the same month. The King about this period lost his second sister, the Princess Louisa; and during the summer the King of Denmark paid a visit to this country, in which he displayed much folly, but met with very little personal approval from his royal brother-in-law, though treated with all the splendour of regal magnificence. His table alone was served, exclusive of wines, at the rate of 84*l.* per day; and the City corporation, and other public bodies, gave him numerous fêtes.

The King of Denmark's visit to England, indeed, placed his Majesty, personally, in a very awkward situation, but in which he conducted himself with much good sense and delicacy. It cannot be doubted but that he was fully apprised of the unpleasant circumstances of his sister Caroline Matilda at the Danish Court, from the machinations of an ambitious stepmother, and also of the King her husband's culpable neglect and forbearance. This, in fact, was the true and just motive of the cold reception which the Danish

King met with at St. James's, and of his Majesty's procrastination in receiving at his palace of Richmond the first visit of this royal guest. The late Princess Dowager of Wales was also equally well informed and displeased on account of the illiberal and unmerited slights her daughter had so often met with from the Queen Dowager and her son Prince Frederick, and she despised that King for his tame submission and pusillanimity. Notwithstanding all this, his Majesty, willing to shew to royalty the exterior marks of distinction which sovereigns mutually expect from each other, intimated to the Royal Family, to his ministers, and the great officers of state, that he should consider as a respectful attention paid to himself, the emulation of the nobility in procuring the King of Denmark whatever was conducive to his amusement and information in this kingdom. Indeed, that young Monarch received the most distinguished honours from an hospitable and magnificent court, in a continued succession of the most brilliant feasts, and the most sumptuous entertainments. His Majesty himself concluded all these festivities in a princely manner, by giving to the Danish Monarch a grand ball and supper at the Queen's palace: but though the King, out of compliment to him, went to his superb masqued ball at the Opera-house, yet he did not mix in the

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS

PRINCESS AUGUSTA SOPHIA.

BORN NOV^R 8. 1768.

motley throng, but merely sat for some time in a private and secluded box, where he could quietly view the folly and bustle of the scene.

In all this dignified reserve, his Majesty was fully justified by the previous conduct of his brother-in-law; and even more so by his behaviour at the British capital, which can best be described in a letter from the Danish Queen to one of her sisters,—"I wish the King's travels had the same laudable objects as those of Cyrus; but I find that the chief visitors of his Majesty are musicians, fiddlers, and other persons designed for employments still more inglorious!"

The Princess Augusta's birth, on the 8th of November, gave the corporation of London another opportunity of approaching his Majesty, which they did with a better grace than on some preceding occasions, steering clear of political animadversion, and confining themselves to the gratulations on the happy event, mingled with becoming loyalty; a circumstance which afforded the King great satisfaction, as was evidently marked by the manner in which he received and answered their address at the levee.

Connected with this event, amidst the usual reception of the public to royal cake and caudle, on Sunday the 13th November, a curious incident occurred at the palace. Two young ladies having drank plentifully of caudle, were detected in car-

rying off a large quantity of cake, and some of the cups in which the caudle had been served up. They were allowed however to escape with a severe reprimand, after begging pardon on their knees for so disgraceful an act.

In his attention to literature, the King did not neglect the practices of the Universities; and this year it was fully understood to be his determination that the Professorship of History at Oxford should be no longer a sinecure. Warton was a candidate; but Vivian secured it, notwithstanding Bishop Warburton's solicitation to the Duke of Grafton, the chancellor. Some years afterwards, however, the King recompensed Warton for his disappointment, expressly desiring that the poet-laureatship should be given to him. But that his Majesty's judgment of him was correct, is evident from Warton's conduct when afterwards appointed Camden Professor, for which he delivered an excellent inaugural lecture, but "suffered," says his biographer, "the rostrum to grow cold whilst it was in his possession."

About this period, his Majesty understanding from Dr. Kennicott that there was in London a Hebrew MS. of the Old Testament, which four centuries previous belonged to a synagogue at Jerusalem, the King felt extremely desirous of possessing such a curiosity, and of having in his library things which might be useful to the country;

and he accordingly bought and sent it to Oxford, for the information and examination of the learned at that University.

Mr. Townshend died this year; and the King felt his loss so sincerely when he heard it, that he exclaimed, he had lost one of the ablest and best men in his dominions *.

Amidst all the bustle of politics, the King still found time to attend to the arts and sciences; and

* Charles Townshend was reckoned to possess the finest talents in the House of Commons: his only fault in speaking, perhaps, was, looking out for words and antitheses to ornament his discourse, which sometimes led him into embarrassments. His conversation, however, was of the most excellent kind, partaking of almost every thing which could adorn it. Some people used to think he at times took too great a lead; but he talked so much from the fulness of his mind, his humour so prevailing, and his wit so sudden and brilliant, that most people gave way to him, well pleased to let him take their turn.

He was, besides all this, a fine mimic: and, though a very handsome man, he had that power of face, that he could in a moment transform it into every kind of deformity.

It was from these talents, that, after the death of his father, he became the patron of his whole family. It was through his interest that his brother Lord Townshend was appointed lord lieutenant of Ireland; and though Mr. Townshend died before the appointment was made out, yet the King, knowing it was in train, punctually performed his promise; and his lordship soon after set out for Ireland, where he continued eight years with so much credit to himself, and advantage to the country, that the anniversary of his birth is still, we believe, celebrated there by some of the most respectable societies in that kingdom.

this year he employed Sir William Chambers in building the observatory at Richmond, of which Dr. Stephen Demainbray was the first astronomer, that edifice being fitted up with the very best instruments, in a moveable dome, consisting of an eight-feet transit instrument, a twelve-feet zenith sector, an equatorial instrument of most superb construction, an eight-feet mural arch, and a ten-feet reflector; besides a very handsome collection of natural history, many fine ores, especially from the Hartz forest in Germany, and a complete collection of philosophical experimental apparatus.

The Royal Academy was also established at this period under the King's immediate patronage, of which Sir Joshua Reynolds was elected the first president; in whose Memoirs by Northcote much literary anecdote of this era may be found, illustrative of British improvement in matters of taste and fancy.

Without entering into any very special details upon this subject, it must still be interesting to view the original design, and to compare it with the present state of the Royal Academy; and it appears, that on its first formation it was announced to the world that his Majesty, ever ready to encourage useful improvements, and always intent upon promoting every branch of polite knowledge, had been graciously pleased to institute a Royal Academy of Arts, to be under his Majesty's own

immediate patronage, and under the direction of forty artists of the first rank in their several professions.

The principal object of this Institution was stated to be the establishment of well regulated schools of design, where students in the arts might find that instruction which had so long been wanted, and so long wished for in this country. That, therefore, there was intended to be a winter academy of living models of different characters to *draw* after, and a summer academy of living models of different characters to *paint* after. There were also to be *Laymen* with all sorts of draperies, both ancient and modern, and choice casts of all the celebrated antique statues, groupes, and basso-relievos.

Nine of the ablest academicians, elected annually from amongst the forty, were to superintend these schools by rotation, to set the figures, to examine the performances of the students, to advise and instruct them, and to turn their attention towards that branch of the arts in regard to which they might severally appear to have the aptest disposition.

In order also to instruct the students in the principles and laws of composition, to strengthen their judgment, to form their taste for design and colouring, to point out to them the beauties and imperfections of celebrated performances, and the

particular excellencies and defects of great masters, to fit them for the unprejudiced study of books, and to lead them into the readiest and most efficacious paths of study, it was appointed that there should be a Professor of Painting, a Professor of Architecture, of Anatomy, and of Perspective, who should annually read a certain number of public lectures to the students in the schools, for the general purposes recorded. It was also a part of the original plan, that there should be an extensive library, containing books of architecture, sculpture, painting, and of all the sciences connected with those subjects; also books of prints, of bas-reliefs, vases, trophies, ornaments, ancient and modern dresses, customs and ceremonies, instruments of war and arts, utensils of sacrifice, and all other things useful to the students in general.

The admission to these establishments was to be free to all students properly qualified to reap advantage from such studies as were there to be cultivated. The professors and academicians, who were to instruct in the schools, were to have proper salaries annexed to their offices; as were also the treasurer, the keeper of the academy, the secretary, and all other persons employed in the management of the institution; his Majesty, for the commencement, allotting a

large house in Pall-Mall for the purposes of the schools, &c.

It was also stated that, to render the effects of this truly royal institution conspicuous to the world, there should be an annual exhibition of paintings, sculptures, and designs, open to all artists of distinguished merit, where they might offer their performances to public view, and acquire that degree of fame and encouragement which they might be deemed to deserve.

It was also said then to be a primary object of the establishment, that as all men who enter the career of the arts are not equally successful, and as some, unhappily, never acquire either fame or encouragement, but after many years of painful study, at a time of life when it is too late to think of other pursuits, find themselves destitute of every means of subsistence; and as others are, by various infirmities incident to man, rendered incapable of exerting their talents, whilst some are cut off in the bloom of life before it could be possible to provide for their families, so was it his Majesty's gracious intention, as a part of that generosity and benevolence which overflowed every action of his life, to allot a considerable sum, annually to be distributed for the relief of indigent artists and their distressed families.

Such being the plan, it was not too much to

say, that even this slight sketch of the institution was sufficient to convince the world that no country could boast of a more useful establishment, nor of one formed upon more noble principles.

Indeed the present flourishing state of art in this country, arising from his Majesty's gracious patronage, must afford abundant matter for pleasurable contemplation to all Englishmen of taste; especially to such as remember the ridiculous opinions and sarcasms thrown out and disseminated, not long since, by those shallow continental critics, Abbés Winkleman, Du Bos, and others, who have idly busied themselves in calculating the effects of climate on the human imagination; endeavoured to measure the degrees of genius of the inhabitants, by the degrees of latitude in which a country happens to be situated; and have ignorantly and impudently decided, that England is placed too far north to expect any of those warm and vigorous exertions of fancy, experienced in the more southern, and consequently happier, regions of Italy, and other countries on the continent.

The futility of these suppositions has been ably exposed by an eminent artist of this age, in an "Enquiry into the Causes of the slow Progress of the Arts in England;" where he has sufficiently proved, what, indeed, no Englishman, or foreigner acquainted with the works of Englishmen, could

require proof of, "that the course of art has been impeded, not by frigidity of climate or imagination, but by various politico-religious causes, commencing with the Reformation; and much more effectually destructive to the growth of refinement and taste, and, consequently, to the progress of the fine arts, than any combination of frost, fog, wind, rain, and sunshine, incidental to this, or perhaps any other country, Nova Zembla and Siberia not excepted.

"The strength, originality, and variety, certainly possessed by the English school, consistent with the national character, and its having made of late a greater improvement, in less time, than has been made perhaps by any other since the revival of the arts, might very rationally excite a hope to see it rival, if not excel, the happiest productions of the most celebrated schools of Italy, if properly seconded by taste and liberality in the public; which qualities are to an artist of genius, what a good soil is to a plant or tree, and neither the one nor the other can be expected to flourish, or bear fruit of the highest flavour, if the ground be uncongenial, barren, or overgrown with weeds."

Mr. Northcote relates that the President, who was knighted in honour of his appointment, had a villa at Richmond, of which Sir William Chambers was the architect. During summer it was

his frequent custom to dine at this place with select parties of his friends: and it happened some little time before he was to be elected mayor of Plympton, that one day, after dining at the house, he and his party took an evening walk in Richmond gardens, when very unexpectedly, at a turning of one of the avenues, they suddenly met the King, accompanied by a part of the Royal Family; and as his Majesty saw him, it was impossible for him to withdraw without being noticed. The King called to Reynolds, immediately entered into conversation, and told him that he had been informed of the office that he was soon to be invested with, that of being made the mayor of his native town. Sir Joshua was astonished that a circumstance so minute and inconsiderable, which indeed was of importance only to himself, should have come so quickly to the ears of his Majesty; but he assured him respectfully of its truth, saying, that it was an honour which gave him more pleasure than any he had ever received during his life; but then fortunately recollecting himself, he added, "except that which your Majesty was graciously pleased to confer upon me."

We avail ourselves of an esteemed periodical work, to add some particulars respecting Sir Joshua's successor, the late venerable president, whose first interview with the King took place in

February 1768, before the exhibition of the Agrippina in Spring-gardens, that year; and it not only decided the future fortune of Mr. West, but had an important influence on the fine arts in this country.

In 1767, Mr. West exhibited five historical paintings: of those, Pyrrhus when a child brought to Glaucus, King of Illyria, for protection, was particularly applauded, and added largely to his reputation. Dr. Drummond, then Bishop of York, had seen the picture of the young Pyrrhus at Spring-gardens, and was so struck with its merits, that he called on the painter at his house, took him home in his carriage to dine with him, and, after dinner, gave him a commission to paint the Landing of Agrippina with the ashes of Germanicus at Brundusium. This, according to notes taken from Mr. West's recollections, was the first commission for an historical picture that he received in England. When this painting was finished, that prelate was so pleased with its classical feeling and grandeur, that he mentioned it in terms of just praise to the King, who expressed a wish to see it and the painter. This was an important crisis to Mr. West. His Majesty, on the day of introduction, was surprised at the historical dignity of the composition, and pleased with the modest manner of the artist. A venerable contemporary, who knew him well

at the time, has enabled us to describe West at that period. His open forehead, mild intelligent eye, and clear healthy complexion, with the gravity of his dress, and that primitive tranquillity of expression, which his education among the Quakers had given him, formed altogether a combination not very usual in a courtly circle. He was rather below the middle size, but a light strongly-knit figure, well formed for active exercises. His Majesty conversed with him affably, and asked some questions relative to his birthplace in America; the Queen joined in commending the Agrippina, and the King gave him a commission to paint the subject of Regulus departing from Rome for Carthage. Elated with this unexpected piece of good fortune, West speedily executed a design for the picture, which he submitted to the inspection of his royal patron, who was pleased with it, remarked upon its details, requested him to favour him with a view of the painting in its progress, and expressed an intention of employing him to paint his portrait, and that of his consort.

1769.

It is no part of our plan to enter upon all the politics of this period as connected with the affair of Wilkes, and the circumstances of the riots during the Brentford election, already mentioned;

but we may record the firmness which his Majesty displayed when insulted and menaced with attack from a furious mob, that rushed into the court-yard of St. James's, following a hearse decorated with insignia of the most shameful description, with a person seated on it in the habit of an executioner, holding an axe in his hand and his face covered with crape—said to have been actually an Irish Viscount, then indeed a very young man, descended from one of the oldest families in that kingdom, and who had succeeded to his title about three years previously.

Amidst these disgraceful proceedings the King's firmness and presence of mind never deserted him a moment; but he remained in the drawing-room, displaying the utmost coolness, whilst the palace and the surrounding streets resounded with the clamour of an infuriated mob, and issuing the necessary orders, which his ministers seemed incapable of giving.

Though it is not our intention to enter into all the party politics of the period, or to recapitulate all the grievances complained of in the petitions and remonstrances from all parts of the empire against the men in power; yet we may record the whimsical statement of a humorous foreigner, who observed that "In England the people are taxed in the morning for the soap that washes their hands; at nine for the coffee, the tea, and

the sugar they use for breakfast; at noon for starch to powder their hair; at dinner for the salt to savour their meat; in the evening for porter to cheer their spirits; all day long for the light that enters the windows, and at night for the candles to light them to bed." All this is certainly very true; yet the people of England were not the less flourishing, nor have they sunk under a taxation tenfold in degree. Taxation is not always an absolute deprivation of wealth: but is rather a temporary loan from the individual to the public purse, for which he is repaid by protection, security, extended employment, and an increased stimulus to general industry.*

* Whilst on this subject, and in those days of discontent, we trust that we shall not overstep our plan by inserting the following remarks from an esteemed periodical publication, the New Monthly Magazine, for April 1820.

"Here we shall be reminded of the immense amount of the national debt, with the insupportable burdens it has brought on the country, and the wonderful increase of pauperism in consequence. We are not enamoured with the national debt: all debts are evils, in proportion to their magnitude; and a great national debt is a great national evil. But, if any one were to take the *debtor* side only from a merchant's books, he would infallibly prove that merchant to be in a state of bankruptcy, while all the world would exclaim against the injustice of the statement; so is it with our national debt. It is necessary, before we can draw towards a just determination of the account, to know for what it was contracted?—to whom?—under what circumstances? and whether any counterbalance of credits, of

The first hostile embarkation of troops for America took place this summer, where they landed on Michaelmas-day; on which day the first congress, or convention, broke up its deliberations at Boston, perhaps a little hurried by the arrival of the troops in that harbour.

The parliamentary session of 1769 was opened by a royal speech, which dwelt principally upon the rebellious principles and practices of the North American colonies, which were most probably the cause of that deficiency in the civil list which obliged his Majesty in February to inform the two Houses that he had been forced to incur a debt of half a million, and that he relied on their

effects and of consequences, can be brought to account *per contra*. For, we are old enough to have enjoyed the conversation of those who were in the confidence of Sir Robert Walpole; of those who thought it *possible* that the national debt *might* be increased to a *hundred millions;* but a hundred millions was the *ne plus ultra* of the national debt; there it MUST stop; and that was the point of national bankruptcy. Our readers, who are living witnesses of the magnitude of this incumbrance, at the present moment, will scarcely credit what we have asserted; or they will take the other alternative, and smile at the predictions which time has so completely falsified. They will have observed, too, in the present paper, evidences that this "dead weight," as many call it, has not produced those destructive effects on the kingdom, nor on the principal branches (and causes) of its prosperity, which were confidently expected. Has our agriculture ceased? Have our arable lands been returned to common wastes? Do we really grow less corn per acre? Is

zeal and affection to enable him to discharge it. Malice indeed asserted that the deficiency arose from improper appropriations to the King's private treasures; but it is more probable that ministers

the quality deteriorated? Does the bushel contain more chaff and less meal? It is presumed, that the quality, taking the average of Britain, never was finer. It is presumed, that the produce, per acre, never was greater; and it is presumed, also, that the spread of corn sown and reaped never was more extensive.

We ask again, whether the poorer portion of our population are reduced from the coarse fare of their ancestors to still coarser? Is there less animal food consumed by those in the humbler walks of life than was consumed by their forefathers? Have they abandoned the barley-bread formerly in vogue,—the oaten cake,—the plank-bread,—the thick pottage, for *inferior* nourishment,—for "husks which the swine did eat," to use a language strongly expressive of the miseries of famine? No such thing: the proportion of barley and oats used as sustenance for man is very much diminished; the proportion of wheat consumed by the indigent is incalculably increased; the use of animal food never was so general; and, what excites the astonishment of strangers, the prevalence of foreign luxuries, especially of that fascinating beverage tea, if not to be enumerated among our national sins, is certainly to be considered as a symptom of willing change, a substitution supposed, at least, to possess the character of superiority.

If, then, our arts have received life and energy, if our manufactures employ a greater number of hands, if our commerce engages a greater number of vessels, if our ports demand extended accommodations, if our agriculture is improved, if our population is increased, if our military and naval strength is augmented; if general knowledge and literature are all but

had applied the money to purposes connected with the intestine and colonial commotions of the time.

It was in the autumn of this year that the

universal among us, and if rational and constitutional liberty still prevails, whence are all the terrors attributed to the national debt? Has it ruined us *as yet?* But, "we are heavily taxed." Let us state the question fairly, *tea* is heavily taxed: but, unless we *must* drink tea, how are *we* taxed? Sugar is heavily taxed: but *we* are not taxed: although it may be, and is, true enough, that *we tax ourselves* by using it. Wine is taxed, rum is taxed, and so on: but only those who drink wine and rum are really taxed, and they no farther than they think proper, or find convenient to *indulge* in the use of those liquors; for the use of those liquors is an *indulgence*; and if people will have their indulgencies, let them pay for them.

When we have deducted from the list of supposed personal burdens that great portion of taxation which attaches to foreign luxuries, we shall do well to enquire what proportion of internal taxes actually falls on those unable to bear them. To the eye of contemplative reason it is not easy to see how the duties levied on horses, carriages, hunting dogs, livery servants, numerous windows, &c.—the unenviable establishments of nobility—can affect the poor: and, say certain *argufiers*, "the bulk of the nation is poor;" why, then, the bulk of the nation is not affected by these taxes. But, they are by others; and it would be an imputation on the governing powers if they were not: "England expects every man to do his duty;" and a part of his duty is, to bear his share of the public incumbrances. It will be recollected, that of these only we are treating, and as connected with the national debt: not of any local, or district assessments, or of any charge that does not come into the national accounts.

famous redress of grievances was presented by the city; soon after which Wilkes obtained a verdict of 4000*l.* damages against Lord Halifax for the seizure of his papers. It was generally understood, that the King had declared that he would cover all the expenses of his servants in

The national debt originated in the days of King William, and at the accession of Queen Anne amounted to upwards of *sixteen millions.* Each succeeding war increased this incumbrance, till, in the year 1760, or rather at the conclusion of the war in 1763, the amount exceeded *one hundred and forty-six millions.* The war of the American revolution augmented it to *two hundred and fifty-seven millions,* to the great joy of the foreign enemies and rivals of Britain; to the great alarm of foreigners who had property (and dealings) with Britain, who thought, surely the ruin of the country was at hand; and to the no small discomfort and gloom of the whole kingdom. In fact, here we rest our argument: we were then told, that all was lost: and this was so generally re-echoed, that the individual who did not believe it, and acknowledge that belief, was beheld with symptoms of pity, or astonishment. The years 1785, 86, and 87, were passed in much anxiety by every well-wisher to his country.

But, ere long, a different scene presented itself; the nation began to breathe freely; trade revived, commerce acquired an activity never before experienced, and the antagonists of this country (we speak from our own knowledge, and from their publications) were more than astonished; and mortified, too, when *they* felt the consequences of their political immorality and misconduct, while we stood on "vantage ground," and sympathized with their approaching sufferings."

this affair; a circumstance which, it has been said, induced the jury not to grant larger damages!

His Majesty indeed, though accused of obstinacy by his enemies, gained much applause from his friends for the resolution with which he supported his ministers on all points which he approved of. During the extreme unpopularity of the Duke of Grafton, the King never deserted him. The country also owed much to him, when his ministers were almost afraid to put the laws in force; and it was to him personally that the civil power was obliged to look for authority at the execution of the Spitalfields rioters at Bethnal Green, a change of place the legality of which had been previously referred to the twelve Judges.

Though thwarted in almost every public measure, his Majesty was not tired of doing good, especially in the encouragement of the Magdalen Hospital, a charity of some standing, and of which the Queen was patroness, but first incorporated in 1769.

Nor did he neglect his own private avocations, especially in the repair and adornment of Windsor Castle, on which he was now actively engaged, and which was long his favourite residence; and an act of parliament having passed for the paving and lighting of that town, his

Majesty generously bestowed 1000*l.* towards the same.

The close of the year was distinguished by the well known letter of Junius to his Majesty, which appeared in the Public Advertiser of the 19th December; a most virulent personal attack upon the Monarch, accusing him of being the author of all those measures which the writer chose to stigmatize as crimes, and describing the ministry as objects both of abhorrence and contempt.

1770.

The style of that most extraordinary address seems to have paralyzed the minds of the cabinet, as it was on the opening of the next session of parliament, 9th January, 1770, that they got up that royal speech which occasioned so much animadversion for its allusions to the distemper amongst the horned cattle, without noticing the political distempers then raging throughout the kingdom, excited by the clamour about the Brentford election, in the affair of Wilkes and Luttrell.

It was indeed wittily said, in the style of Congreve and our old comedy-writers, that as the citizens had taken the most prominent part in those discontents, so the notice of the horned cattle might have been a political allegory; but wit could not save the ministers, the greatest part of whom instantly resigned, and on the 28th of the

month, Lord North* assumed the office of first lord of the treasury, in addition to the chancellorship of the exchequer, the Duke of Grafton giving up all ostensible connection with the government.

* This very amiable (though politically unfortunate) nobleman went into business very early in life, and attached himself to the duties of his office with unremitting care and assiduity. To an excellent classical education, and many social qualities, he joined a knowledge of the German, French, and Italian languages, with a temper of that naturally conciliating disposition, that the severest of his parliamentary opponents were no longer such out of the sphere of politics.

When he was young in office, as one of the lords of the treasury under the old Duke of Newcasle, he was met one morning by the late George Grenville, and another gentleman, walking in the Park, and muttering something to himself, seemingly as if rehearsing an oration. "Here comes blubbering North," says the latter to Mr. Grenville; "I wonder what he is getting by heart, for I 'm sure it can be nothing of his own." "You 're mistaken," says the other; "North is a young man of great promise and high qualifications, and if he does not relax in his political pursuits, is very likely to be the prime minister of this country." This prediction was fulfilled twelve years afterwards.

Of his wit and good-humour we have too many instances to doubt. He never strained for either. Like the great Earl of Bath, he had them always at command; nor had he the sordid vices of avarice and ambition to balance those pleasing qualities. Mr. Burke paid a just tribute to the former one day coming out of the House of Commons, after his lordship had kept them in a roar of laughter for some minutes before. "Well, there 's no denying it, this man has more wit than all of us (meaning the Opposition) put together."

American affairs were now coming to a crisis. In March, riots took place at Boston, in which the soldiery were forced to fire in their own

One day when Alderman Sawbridge was haranguing on his annual motion in favour of annual parliaments, looking over to the treasury bench (the day being extremely hot) he observed Lord North with his head reclining on his left shoulder, seemingly asleep; upon which he stopped short, and cried out, "But what signifies my endeavours to come at the root of this political evil, when the noble lord in the blue ribband is so little attentive to me that he has fallen into a profound sleep?" This raised a laugh with the alderman's party; which his lordship immediately turned against them by observing, loud enough to be heard, "No, I was not asleep; but I wish to God I had been."

Coming up to the door of the House of Commons one evening rather late, Pearson, the door-keeper, stopped him, and, in his laconic free manner of speaking, said, "No, my lord, you can't come in here." "Why so?" said his lordship, somewhat surprised. "Because they are now ballotting for an election committee, and the doors of course are locked." "Aye," says his lordship with a smile; "and yet this is rather hard, considering some people call this *my House of Commons.*"

Having had some prescience of a fit of the gout coming on him, he desired his man to get him his large gouty shoes. The man looked for them for some time, but not finding them in the usual places where he generally put them, concluded they were stolen, and began cursing the thief. "Poh," says his lordship, seemingly very gravely, though at the same time agitated with some pain, "how can you be so ill-natured, John? Now all the harm I wish the poor rogue is, *that my shoes may fit him.*"

Lord North being one of the governors of the Charter-house,

defence, and several lives were lost. This was the first blood shed in that unhappy civil warfare.

a formal complaint was made to him by one of the pensioners of that hospital, that the victuals were not so good as they should be, particularly the beef, which at times was not eatable. This complaint being renewed, his lordship went privately one morning to the Charter-house, and asking the house steward whether he had any cold beef in the house (such as the pensioners usually eat), desired he would bring it up. The beef was accordingly introduced, the look of which so pleased his lordship that he immediately asked him if be could provide him with mustard, bread, and small beer, which being likewise brought, his lordship took a chair, and eat a very hearty luncheon: after this he ordered the complainant to be brought up, and then asked him whether that was the same kind of beef usually served? The man said, "Yes." "And the same small beer, bread, mustard, &c.?" "Yes," says the man, "I believe pretty much the same." "Why then," says his lordship, "all I have to say is this: if you have any complaint in future to make about such provisions, you must apply to another governor, and, as there is no disputing tastes, he might perhaps redress you; but as for my part, as you may see, my friend, (pointing to his plate) I have decidedly given it against you."

When his brother, afterwards bishop of Winchester, was married to his amiable lady, who was a Miss Bannister, a confidential friend was asking his lordship, what could be his brother's motive for the match? "She is no professed beauty, no great fortune, and no great family." "Why, in respect to her beauty and fortune I have not much to say of either, but I must beg your pardon in respect to blood, as I hear she is very nearly related to the *Stairs*."

Towards the close of the American war, a noble lord in the

The interference of the City of London this year in general politics produced some remarkable events connected with the inscription on the

other House having, in the warmth of debate, called Lord North "this *thing* of a minister," some injudicious friends exaggerated the matter to him, wanting to make it a personal quarrel, and said they thought his lordship should resent it. "And so I will," says his lordship very coolly, "by *continuing in office*, as I know his lordship has no other resentment against me than wishing to be *the thing I am*."

On the evening of that day when he moved an adjournment of the House for a few days for the purpose of resigning his office, coming through the lobby of the House arm in arm with one of his friends, he asked him to go home and dine with him: the other told him he would with pleasure, but was partly engaged. "Come, come," says his lordship, "put off your engagement, and have the virtue to say, you dined with a fallen minister on the very day of his dismissal." The friend assented, and went home with him.

Upon his retirement from office, he went down to Bath for the recovery of his health, and particularly for his sight, which was nearly lost. The conversation turning one day after dinner on the perishable condition of party zeal and political enmity, his lordship thoroughly agreed in the principle; "and as a proof of it," says he, "there is Colonel Barré (who by the bye was as blind as his lordship); no man has opposed me more in the House of Commons than he has, and I, of course, him; and yet I can fairly answer for myself, and I dare say I may equally do so for him, we should be both very glad to *see one another* at this moment."

The cause of Lord North's blindness, it is said, originated from the frequency of *sanding* his dispatches. He was naturally very near-sighted, and carried up every paper he looked at im-

statue of Beckford in the Guildhall; when a few days after the rising of parliament, an address was presented, expressing the deep concern which

mediately under his eye; the papers which were fresh written he sanded in this position, which being so frequently repeated, the dust settled in his eyes, and ultimately produced a total blindness.

The natural civility and good-humour of this nobleman left him no enemies out of the House of Commons. Even the principals of Opposition knew these qualities to be so predominant in his lordship, that they frequently petitioned him, as first lord of the treasury, for little favours and indulgences for their friends and constituents, which he as readily granted when he could do it with propriety, and this they frequently acknowledged.

To the brother of one of his principal opponents in the House of Commons he continued a very valuable Collection in the Colonies almost during the whole of his administration. He was often spoke to about displacing him, and he as constantly answered, "Why should I visit the sins of the brother upon a man who does his duty, and has given me no particular offence?"

In short, like his predecessor Sir Robert Walpole, though very much baited during his administration, he had no enemies as a man; he lived long enough out of office to be reconciled to all his political opposers, who, when the cause of contention ceased, had candour enough to acknowledge his private worth and integrity.

He met his blindness and increasing infirmities with great firmness in the bosom of his family, and even with a good humour, and flashes of wit and merriment, that made his table one of the most desirable places to be a guest at.

In his last moments he only regretted not having it in his power to meet his favourite and youngest son, who the morning

the city felt at the awful sentence of censure passed upon it in a previous answer from the throne to an address for dissolution of parliament and removal of ministers.* In reply, his Majesty observed, that he should have been wanting to the public as well as to himself, if he had not expressed his dissatisfaction at their former address; after which the Lord Mayor requested leave to

of his father's death landed at Dover from his travels, but could not be in town time enough to receive the blessing of an affectionate and indulgent parent.

The son above alluded to was the honourable Frederick North, afterwards secretary of state under his excellency Sir Gilbert Elliot, viceroy of Corsica.

Lord North's first introduction into office has been said to be the result of back-stairs influence, but most probably rather proceeded from early friendship.

* We have seen it stated, on the occasion of the former political changes, that a conference of one of the political parties took place at the Marquis of Rockingham's in Grosvenor-square, at which it was arranged, should the then Opposition succeed, that Lord Chatham, Lord Temple, and the Marquis, should be created dukes, and hold each a cabinet office; that Mr. George Grenville, under the control of the three new dukes, should appear as ostensible minister at the head of the treasury; and to render such administration permanent, that all those who called themselves the King's friends, in both Houses, should be turned, and for ever kept, out of office.

The result of this procedure was soon made known to the King, who is said to have declared with a dignified resentment, that, as he was not consulted in the arrangement, he was deter-

reply, which being granted, his lordship made an extempore address, which has been represented as differing considerably from that engraved upon the pedestal in the civic hall.* No answer being returned to this verbal oration, the Corporation withdrew; and the birth of a Princess having occasioned the City of London to present a congratulatory address about a week afterwards, the Lord Chamberlain acquainted the Lord Mayor

mined to prevent it taking place; and that the insolence of their deliberations in private had fixed him in the resolution of never employing them in the public councils of the nation. It is impossible absolutely to avouch the truth of this statement; but it was also reported that, in manifesting his indignation, the King's express words were, "Have they then resolved to invade my rights, and to abuse those of my PEOPLE! I am unhappy at their folly—it has for ever excluded them from my favour, as it shall from the service of a country which they would sacrifice to their ambition. WHILE I WILL HAVE MY PEOPLE FREE, I WILL BE FREE MYSELF!"

* We have heard it stated, that on the return to Guildhall, Beckford and the Corporation entered the council-chamber in great alarm and most evident trepidation, when a gentleman, high in the confidence of the Lord Mayor, earnestly asked him what he *did* say?—to which Beckford confusedly replied, "that he did not well know," but repeated something as well as he could recollect. His friend then drew up the *classic* remonstrance now engraven on the pedestal, and which was most assiduously echoed and re-echoed in all the journals and public prints, apparently rather in the hope of softening down democratic rudeness, than of establishing an historical document, which it has now become.

that as his lordship had thought fit to speak to his Majesty after his answer to the late remonstrance, he was directed to inform him, as it was unusual, his Majesty desired that nothing of that kind might happen for the future. There are some curious anecdotes about this affair, which state that on the 30th of May the Lord Mayor and Corporation set out for St. James's with a complimentary address on the Queen's safe delivery of the Princess Elizabeth; and only the chief magistrate and three of the aldermen had passed through Temple-bar, when the mob shut the gates against Mr. Alderman Harley, whom they not only pelted with stones and dirt, but actually pulled him out of his carriage, and it was with difficulty that he saved his life by escaping into the Sun Tavern.

The Lord Mayor finding his train thus unexpectedly shortened, and having ascertained the cause, sent back the city marshal to open the gate, when the remainder of the procession passed through, and shortly after arrived at the Palace. After waiting a considerable time in the antichamber, the Lord Chamberlain came out and read a paper to the following purport: "As your lordship thought fit to speak to his Majesty after his answer to the late remonstrance, I am to acquaint your lordship, as it was unusual, his Majesty desires that nothing of this kind may happen for the future."

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS

ELIZABETH, DUCHESS OF HESSE HOMBERG

BORN MAY 22. 1770.

The Lord Mayor then desired that the paper might be handed to him; but the Lord Chamberlain refused, saying that he acted officially, and had it not in orders to deliver the paper. The Lord Mayor then desired a copy, to which the Chamberlain answered, that he would acquaint his Majesty, and take his directions, but did not return until the order was brought for the whole court to attend with the address.

In the interim, whilst waiting for the introduction, a curious scene ensued. The father of the city, Sir Robert Ladbroke, complained to the Mayor that stones had been thrown at his coach. Beckford called up Gates, the city marshal, face to face with the venerable alderman, and asked him if it was so. The marshal denied the fact, when Ladbroke said, that, if not stones, certainly dirt had been thrown; but this Beckford rebutted, with the assertion that there was no dirt in the street (happy days for the City of London): when Sir Robert qualified his complaint by observing, that the mob spit in the windows of his carriage.

On arriving in the presence-chamber, Mr. Rigby attacked the Lord Mayor, telling him, that although he had promised to be answerable for the peace of the city, yet he had been informed by Sir Robert Ladbroke that there had been a great riot in the city, which he, Beckford, had taken no pains to quell; to which the Mayor replied

that he should be ready to answer for his conduct at all times, in all places, and on every proper occasion.

After some further altercation, Rigby again said that the city magistrates had been mobbed; to which Mr. Sheriff Townshend replied, that taking the whole together, in his opinion, the people had been mobbed by the magistrates, and not the magistrates by the people.

His Majesty soon after entered, and the address was presented agreeable to the usual form; his Majesty saying in his answer: "The City of London entertaining these loyal sentiments, may be always assured of my protection."

Public clamour was still further excited by the trial of Woodfall, the printer of Junius's letter, and his acquittal in the month of June; about which time also a Spanish squadron took forcible possession of our settlement at the Falkland Islands.

It has repeatedly been said that the dispute which took place this year between England and Spain respecting this affair, and on which subject Dr. Johnson was soon after employed by ministers to write a political pamphlet, was most shamefully settled by concessions on our part which ought never to have been acceded to. There is one fact, however, connected with that affair not generally known; and which, as has been surmised, if it had been then known, might have rendered Johnson less

ready to take up the pen in defence of the peace-makers, considering the strong attachment which he was reported to have felt for the exiled House of Stuart. It is, that the French ministry actually at that period meditated another attempt at revolution in this country in favour of the Pretender. To the accuracy of that surmise, however, we cannot subscribe; as Johnson's sound sense, whatever were his prejudices from early education, must always have formed a safeguard for his practical loyalty. Soon after, the pacification with Spain left the French cabinet without hope of success.

SECTION IV.

1771—1780.

Education of Royal Offspring—Courtly Anecdotes—Death of Princess Dowager—American War—Domestic Arrangements—Geography, Literature, Fine Arts, &c. &c. &c.

The strict domestic attention, which the Royal pair displayed in the education of their offspring, was highly deserving the imitation of every class of their subjects. It was customary to allow them a stated sum as a kind of privy purse, given without any express directions for its expenditure, but subject to the Queen's inquiries respecting its disposal, when a due rebuke was given if the case demanded, or praise judiciously bestowed upon the more deserving appropriations, so as to operate as a future lesson. On one occasion at breakfast, whilst the King was reading the newspaper to his family, one of the youngest branches said, "Mamma, I can't think what a prison is." Upon its being explained, and understanding that the pri-

soners were then often half-starved for want, the child replied, "That is very cruel, for the prison is bad enough without starving; but I will give all my allowance to buy bread for the poor prisoners!" Due praise was given for this benevolent intention, which was directed to be put in force, together with an addition from the royal parents; and many a heart was relieved that knew not its benefactors.

The Earl of Holdernesse about this period was preceptor to the Prince of Wales; his sub-preceptor, principally, in personal charge being Monsieur de Salzes, the intimate friend of Dr. Maclaine, chaplain to the British embassy at the Hague, and the admired translator of Mosheim's Ecclesiastical History, but more particularly noticed at that period, as being uncle to the noted Maclaine, the *fashionable* highwayman, the Macheath of the day, whose exit at Tyburn was reported to have filled the breasts of some, even of the most dashing, belles with sorrow and despair.

Lord Holdernesse and De Salzes retired from office together; and Dr. Markham, already on the establishment, became preceptor.

Those changes which now took place in the education of the Prince of Wales, with respect to his governors and preceptors, have been said first to have originated with the Earl of Holdernesse, a nobleman of great dignity of deportment, who,

in a similar manner as stated in regard to the education of the Prince's venerated parent, observed with pain that a secret influence existed which he considered dangerous because dark, and injurious to himself as invested with the authority of governor.

What this secret influence was, or whence, we know not: but it has been added that certain books had been recommended to the perusal of his Royal Highness, of which Lord Holdernesse complained, conceiving that they inculcated principles unfit for the mind of a British prince; and also feeling his interest diminished, he requested leave to resign, which was accepted; Doctor Markham, afterwards advanced to the see of York, remaining in office, and the sub-governor, Mr. Smelt, retiring on a pension.*

Lord Bruce was appointed governor; but his

* Of this gentleman, the venerable Mrs. Delany says in a letter, (1786.) "Their Majesties were so gracious as to hint a wish of my spending some days at Kew, when they were there, and to make it completely agreeable and commodious, engaged Mr. and Mrs. Smelt, who live there, to invite me to their house, a pleasure of itself, that would have given me wings for the undertaking.—I think you can hardly be a stranger to the character of Mr. Smelt, a man that has the honour of being a friend to the King, and testified to the world by his disinterested and steady behaviour, how worthy he is of such a distinction. His character is that of the most noble and delicate kind, and deserves the pen of a Clarendon to do justice to it."

pupil, even then, surpassing him in classical acquirements, especially in Greek, the story of some puzzle upon that subject got wind, and became so much the butt of courtly satire, that his lordship willingly resigned, and received the earldom of Aylesbury as a compliment. The Duke of Montague next succeeded to the superintendence of the Royal education, as shall be hereafter noticed.

His Majesty had now two great objects in view; to act right himself, and to shew a praiseworthy example to all his subjects: and in regard to the latter point, he set himself assiduously to work in the adoption of an improved system of agriculture, which was now commenced at Richmoond under his own personal auspices, by turning part of the old park into a dairy and grazing farm, whilst a portion was set apart for arable purposes.

In those occupations he took great delight, and spent many quiet hours, whilst a set of clamorous politicians, or rather partizans, were loading him with charges of tyranny, and holding him up to public detestation as a Nero! But he calmly heard their rancour, and smiled at his new appellation of "Farmer George," disdaining not to act the real farmer, and to send the produce of his grounds to market as the best criterion of his system: a system which was soon followed up by the Duke of Bedford, Mr. Coke, and other distinguished agriculturists.

The delicacy shewn by His Majesty in making improvements, in regard not only to the rights, but even to the comfort of others, was strongly evinced in 1771, in his conduct towards a poor old servant of the royal household, a Mr. Drury, keeper of the duck pond in St. James's park, who was very uneasy from the apprehension of his house being to be pulled down in consequence of the alterations and improvements then taking place. But His Majesty no sooner heard of this, than he issued immediate orders, that the poor old man's house should remain as an asylum for him during life.

The King was so satisfied with the conduct of Dr. Markham, that in February 1771 he presented the preceptor with the bishopric of Chester, but still retained him in his office, assisted by Dr. Cyril Jackson as sub-preceptor. The Royal choice could not indeed have fallen upon a fitter person than Dr. Markham, as he was remarkable for mildness of temper, and excelled in his mode of conveying knowledge and of exciting youth to laudable pursuits. While storing the young mind with good principles and eradicating bad ones, his system was to point out the happiness of virtue and expose the misery of vice, and this he never lost sight of even in the closest application to the classics. In short, his knowledge in Greek and Roman literature was universal, and his taste pure; added to which it was a most im-

portant feature in his character that he had never permitted classical studies, as is too often the case, to interfere unnecessarily with the acquisition of general information: and in topographical accuracy he was unrivalled. With all the confidence which the King placed in this amiable man, he did not neglect the personal superintendence of his boys, even in the existing warfare of political party, now at such a height that when he went to meet the Parliament on the 30th of March, to give the Royal assent to numerous bills, it was expected that some popular commotion would take place; and accordingly the high constable of Westminster with several peace officers kept close to the state carriage. There was an immense concourse assembled, who made the most horrid noise, and threw out many insulting expressions, so that not only were the horse guards obliged to cover the coach, but the constables were also forced to use their staves to keep off the infuriated mob. In the midst of this confusion his Majesty sat calm and dignified, and merely expressed his sorrow for the misguided people.

In the course of the spring the King so far broke in upon his regular plan of immediate personal superintendence over the Prince of Wales, who was then nine years of age, that he established a separate household for him at the Queen's Palace,

where a Royal Chaplain was appointed to reside for the purpose of reading prayers every day.

For an office so desirable there were several candidates, amongst whom was the unfortunate Dr. Dodd; but though backed by the warmest influence of Lord Chesterfield, he was unsuccessful, principally, as is believed, through the positive disapprobation of the King himself, arising from his private judgment of Dodd's character.

Several whimsical things are recorded of the birth-day this year, which was stated to be the most numerous and brilliant, that had taken place for many years. Amongst the ladies present was the venerable Duchess of Queensberry, the patroness of the celebrated GAY. It was observed that *Lord North,* though prime minister, was the best dressed gentleman present; and it was thought not a little remarkable, that Mr. Fox, though the fashion had been exploded for half a century, appeared with red heels to his shoes.

On the 5th of June the present Duke of Cumberland was born, about which period the late Duke of that title was married, very much to the King's displeasure. In fact the marriages of the two royal brothers, which had taken place during the summer of 1771, induced his Majesty soon after to send messages to both Houses of Parliament, in which he observed, "that being desirous, from paternal affection to his own family, and

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

ERNEST AUGUSTUS

DUKE OF CUMBERLAND,

BORN JUNE 6: 1771.

anxious concern for the future welfare of his people, and the honour and dignity of his crown, that the right of approving all marriages in the Royal Family might be made effectual," he recommended to the legislature to supply the defects of the then existing laws; and a bill was brought in, such as is now on the statute-books, and finally passed, after considerable opposition: as shall be more fully explained in the ensuing year.

An installation of the Garter having taken place at Windsor on the 25th of July, a whimsical circumstance occurred, which excited considerable surprise: this was the appearance of Wilkes and his daughter, seated in the castle-yard, for which purpose they had obtained tickets from Lord Tankerville*. It was supposed to have some reference

* To the general character of our late Sovereign, the love of his people best will speak; and few monarchs have more possessed the personal affection of their subjects. Against Mr. Wilkes, however, considerable displeasure is said to have been entertained even at this period. So ungrateful was the sound of "Wilkes and No. 45" (the famous number of the "North Briton,") deemed to be to the high personage who is now spoken of, that about 1772, a Prince of the blood (George IV.) then a mere boy, having been chid for some boyish fault, and wishing to take his boyish revenge, is related to have done so by stealing to the King's apartment, and shouting at the door, "Wilkes and No. 45 for ever!" and speedily running away. It is hardly necessary to add, (for who knows not the domestic amiableness of George III.?) that his Majesty laughed at the trick with his accustomed good humour.—(Life of Wilkes.)

to politics; but probably arose solely from curiosity.

The late Duke of Gloucester during this year went to the Mediterranean, on board the Venus frigate, for his health: and, whilst at Genoa, chance placed him at an hotel directly opposite to the apartments occupied by the Pretender, who always moved his hat whenever he passed his royal cousin. This compliment was always returned by the duke, but, as was said, rather coolly, evidently from prudential and political motives; but his Royal Highness expressed much concern for the unhappy situation of that unfortunate personage, who was then in extreme poverty, walking without attendants, very shabby in appearance, always dressed in an old threadbare frock, and wearing in his countenance evident marks of personal distress. At that period the Pope had withdrawn from him the scanty pittance formerly allowed; and the whole affair had such an effect upon the duke, that he publicly declared how much he pitied him, forgetting his attempts to dethrone the Brunswick family; and indeed expressed himself so much in his favour, and in pity of his forlorn situation, that there is reason to believe his representations to the King himself were soon followed by liberal but secret acts of generous munificence.

Johnson, as already noticed, having published

his tract on Falkland's Islands, it has been stated on good authority that Lord North personally waited on him with a message for his Majesty, to know what compliment he should pay him. The doctor paused for some time, and at length replied, "I am too old and lazy for office, my lord."—"It is your convenience, doctor," returned his lordship, "that we would consult."—"Then make my three hundred a-year five, and you may keep the keys of the treasury." The Scots Magazine of that year asserts that he had his wish, and that the appointment was made out in the following week; but this is not in unison with his established biography.

In the autumn of this year Captain Cook returned from his first voyage round the world; and on the 23d of October, Sir Joseph (then Mr.) Banks, accompanied by Dr. Solander, had the honour of an interview with his Majesty at Richmond, to present a "coronet of gold," set round with feathers, which had been received, as the public prints stated, from some chief at one of the new discovered islands. In this, however, there must have been some mistake, at least as far as regards the metal of which the coronet was made, no gold having been met with in the course of that voyage.

It was in this year that the right of courtesy, if so it may be called, for printing the parliamen-

tary debates was first established by a kind of tacit permission, arising from the well-known contest of the House of Commons with the Lord Mayor, and Aldermen Wilkes and Oliver. The recommendation of the Committee of Privileges to the House, to take Miller the printer of the London Evening Post into custody, not being acted upon, the speeches and names, instead of the spurious mode formerly adopted, were afterwards given, without any interference on the part of either house of parliament, except in very particular instances, when the question of privilege is re-asserted and enforced, leaving it rather as a common usage than as a common right.

This year the King made some considerable alterations respecting the Poor Knights of Windsor, who, for some years previous, had been in the practice of living at their own houses, or wherever it suited their convenience, but in direct opposition to the statutes of the foundation.

This his Majesty thought expedient to regulate; and, accordingly, directions were issued that they should all occupy the apartments appropriated to them in Windsor Castle, and should also go to church twice a day in their military cloaks, in obedience to the statute of the founder Edward III.

1772.

It was on the 17th January, 1772, that the wicked revolution took place in Denmark, by which the King became the prisoner of his step-mother, and the unhappy Queen Caroline Matilda was accused of the most flagitious crimes and immured in a dungeon, until the remonstrances of the British ambassador, Sir Robert Keith, procured her better treatment. To detail all those events is far beyond our limits—it is sufficient to record, that when her extraordinary trial took place, all the evidence against her Majesty, all her supposed crimes against the state and the King, notwithstanding the vile assertions of suborned witnesses, were found to be destitute of judicial proofs, solely and perfidiously intended to deprive her of her titles and the prerogatives of her rank, and to bastardize, if possible, her issue, for the sake of placing Prince Frederick upon the throne of Denmark. In fact, her trial was a tissue of contradictions; she was declared at once innocent and guilty. The King, who was chiefly interested in this iniquitous prosecution, so far from accusing her of infidelity and other crimes still more atrocious, declared more than once, that she was worthy of a husband more disposed than himself to do justice to her charms and her virtues. Soon after this, Sir Robert Keith received his letters of recall; and the remonstrances of

England, which became serious, as appeared by a naval armament, constrained the regency of Denmark to consent to deliver up the young queen to this minister, who was appointed to accompany her into the electorate of Hanover, as the castle of Zell had been allotted by her royal brother for her residence.

The demise of the Princess Dowager of Wales took place between five and six on the morning of the 8th of February. On the preceding night the physician felt her pulse, and told her it was more regular than it had been for some time; to which she replied, "Yes; and I think I shall have a good night's rest!"

His Majesty was then in attendance, when his affectionate mother embraced him, but, as he observed on leaving her, with greater warmth and affection than usual. On his noticing this to the physician, that gentleman ventured to inform him, that his parent, notwithstanding her own hopes, was then so far gone that he could not expect her to live beyond the morning. The King then determined to remain, and wait the event; but did not see her again until after her death, for she lay very quiet during the night until a few minutes before she departed, when she laid her hand upon her heart, and went off without a groan. This affectionate son was no sooner informed of the event, than he rushed into the apartment of

death, caught the cold hand, kissed it, and burst into tears.

He soon after retired to St. James's, but did not quit Carlton-house without comforting all her attendants with the assurance, that their usual salaries should be paid until he could find other means of providing for them in the royal household.

Much as calumny detracted from the character of this Princess, we cannot refuse our belief of a description sketched by one who had long been intimate with her Royal Highness, and who has never yet been accused of flattery.

Bishop Newton long filled the office of her chaplain, and even after his promotion she sometimes honoured him with private audiences at Carlton-house; indeed after she had declined seeing company on her birth-day, she still admitted that worthy prelate to pay his duty to her, upon which occasions the discourse was always far from being stiff or formal, the Princess conversing with him in the most easy and condescending manner.

The good bishop therefore says that he could not help grieving for his own personal as well as the national loss; for a national loss it surely was, notwithstanding all that party rage or malice could suggest to the contrary. He adds, that she was, indeed, a remarkable instance of the fluc-

tuation and uncertainty of popular favour; for from her first coming over to this country, her behaviour was so discreet and prudent, so courteous and affable, that she gained the love and esteem of the whole nation, and no Princess was ever more admired and applauded than she was until some time after the death of the Prince of Wales. But the conduct of George II. to her upon that occasion was such, that she could not with decency support and encourage the faction that was formed against the court; and hence it proceeded that the tide of popularity which rose so strong and so high in her favour, first began to turn against her.

Upon her son's accession to the throne, when her influence was believed to be greater, the clamours of faction increased in proportion; especially as Wilkes laid to her charge, in the North Briton, things of which she was entirely innocent; and one day being asked how he could assert such a particular which he knew was not true, "No matter for that," replied he, "it will do very well for a North Briton; the people will swallow any thing."

She would often ask in the morning, "Well, what have the papers said of me?" and would read them and laugh over them. For never was more vile abuse with less foundation; and it is to be hoped she regarded it as little as she deserved

it. Her good deeds were more silent and unknown, for never was any one actuated with a truer spirit of benevolence and charity. The sums which she gave away in private benefactions and pensions, amounted to no less than 10,000*l.* a year; and the merit of her charities was greatly enhanced by their secrecy. Several families who were relieved by her did not so much as know who was their benefactor till her death, when the current of bounty ceased to flow. Amongst other benevolent acts of the Princess Dowager, we must not omit that in 1771 she took a house on Kew Green for the sole use of her old and infirm servants, where they were supported comfortably on her bounty. The calmness and composure of her death were farther proofs and attestations of the goodness of her life; and she died, as she had lived, beloved and honoured most by those who knew her best.

Even when the malignity of faction and party presumed most violently to attack the character of this Princess, on one occasion, in the midst of its loudest clamours, and whilst popular outrage threatened the palace and the person of her Royal Highness, she coolly examined the specimens of some curious Birmingham ware, exhibited to her by an eminent manufacturer of that place: and even when the horrid yells in the court-yard of Carlton-house nearly prevented her voice being

heard, she merely said, "How I pity these poor deluded people. I hope they will know better by and by,"

The learned and amiable Smalridge, who died Bishop of Bristol and Dean of Christchurch, left his family in very embarrassed circumstances; on hearing which, the Princess of Wales, of her own accord, solicited and obtained a pension of 300*l.* a-year for the widow; and afterwards procured a prebend of Worcester for the eldest son. In consideration of this munificence, the bishop's sermons were inscribed to her Royal Highness, with a very grateful acknowledgment of the many and great obligations which the author's family had received from her goodness.

On the 20th of Feb. the message was presented, as already noticed, to both Houses, respecting the Royal marriage bill, stating that his Majesty being desirous, from paternal affection to his own family, and anxious concern for the future welfare of his people, and the honour and dignity of his crown, that the right of approving all marriages in the Royal Family, which ever had belonged to the kings of this realm as a matter of public concern, might be made effectual, he recommended to the legislature to take into serious consideration, whether it might not be wise and expedient to supply the defects of the laws then in being, and by some new provision more effectually to

guard the descendants of George II. (other than the issue of princesses who had married or might hereafter marry into foreign families) from marrying without the approbation of his Majesty, his heirs and successors.

In consequence a bill was brought in and passed, after the most unprecedented opposition in every stage, which declared all such marriages, without the Royal consent under the great seal, to be null and void; but allowing the Royal issue, after 25 years of age, to give notice to privy council of their intention of marrying, after which, if within the space of twelve months no declaration of parliamentary disapprobation should take place, such persons should then be at liberty to enter into matrimonial engagements, even without the Royal consent.

To enumerate all the grounds of opposition to this bill is needless; suffice it to say that its tendency, to prevent the different branches of the Royal Family from intermarrying with subjects, was expedient for the prevention either of family feuds or of the questions of contested succession which had once deluged this fair country with its noblest blood.

In reference to this it may be recorded that it was expressly stated in the month of April that a celebrated club, "not an hundred miles from Pall Mall," who on the close of the rebellion supplied

the Young Pretender, for some years, with an annuity of 5000*l.* but who afterwards stopped it on account of his dissipated course of life, actually renewed that grant on being informed by him of his intended marriage, and his resolution to practise a more becoming economy. He soon afterwards married the Princess of Stolberg.

It is also a curious coincidence that a young gentleman at this period lived in Hereford, so extremely like the King, that an officer of the guards who happened to see him, could scarcely believe him to be any other than his Majesty in disguise.

On the 25th of May the Duke of Gloucester arrived from Italy, where he had been treated with great attention by the Pope, who presented him with several capital paintings, curious engravings, and some very fine specimens of sculpture; with which the King was so much gratified, that he sent a special charge to Prince Paul Borghese to repair to the audience of his Holiness and thank him, in his name, for his politeness and civility.—A whimsical circumstance took place during the Duke's stay in Rome—his carriage having entered by accident at the end of one of the principal streets at the moment when the Pope was entering at the other. The winter in Italy, like that in many of the warmer countries, though short, is often damp and disagreeable, and

it happened that this day was very much like one of our English November, which, added to the filth of that capital, made the streets overflow with mud, whilst some hundreds of the populace had already fallen on their knees to receive the benediction of their papal sovereign. When the carriages approached where there was some difficulty for two to pass, there was a sudden pause; and neither the Pope nor the Duke would avail themselves *first* of the precedence. Many ceremonious messages now took place, whilst the expectant populace silently waited for the blessing, but each party was firm in politeness, until the holy father thought of the expedient of sending a message to say, that if his Royal Highness did not take the lead, *he* would be forced to return home. The royal carriage then moved on, and the blessing was given to all—his Royal Highness perhaps excepted.

His Majesty's extreme regard for public and private decorum was exemplified at this period, by a letter handed about in MS. in August, and said to have actually been addressed to a high ecclesiastical character. It was to the following purport.—

"My good Lord P——e.

"I could not delay giving you the notification of the grief and concern with which my breast

was affected, at receiving an authentic information that routs have made their way into your palace. At the same time I must signify to you my sentiments on this subject, which hold these levities and vain dissipations as utterly inexpedient, if not unlawful, to pass in a residence for many centuries devoted to divine studies, religious retirement, and the extensive exercise of charity and benevolence—I add, in a place where so many of your predecessors have led their lives in such sanctity, as has thrown lustre upon the pure religion they professed and adorned.

"From the dissatisfaction with which you must perceive I behold these improprieties, not to speak in harsher terms, and still more pious principles, I trust you will suppress them immediately; so that I may not have occasion to shew any further marks of my displeasure, or to interpose in a different manner. May God take your Grace into his almighty protection!

"I remain, my Lord P——e,

"Your gracious friend,

"G. R."

His Majesty's domestic conduct at this period was a salutary example to his court, and indeed to all his subjects. He took even laborious pains with the cultivation of the minds of his children, always expressing his conviction of the necessity

of bending the twig whilst young; and all the leisure, which he could spare from affairs of state and necessary exercise, was occupied in giving such instructions to his progeny as their infant minds were capable of receiving, often observing to those in his confidence, "That it is chiefly owing to the parents, if the children are devoid of proper principles."

The King's affection for his children was peculiarly tender, and was strikingly exemplified in the anxious solicitude of his enquiries after them when indisposed. It is well known, that he would go to the lower lodge himself, at the early hour of five in the morning, and, gently tapping at the door of their apartments, would enquire how they had passed the night.

His own course of life was carried to the utmost precision of regularity, rising usually between six and seven, and retiring to his devotions in a private apartment, where he passed an hour previous to breakfast. He then dressed, and attended to whatever public business might be before him; after which his children were brought to him for examination and instruction, when he dismissed them to the guidance of the Queen, who always passed her forenoons in the society of her little ones, and whilst they prosecuted their several tasks, she amused herself with drawing, or else in the most curious needle-work, in which she was a

great proficient. The remainder of the time up to dinner the King passed in his study, when not on horseback, where he was generally occupied in the prosecution or examination of some useful discovery, or in conversing with men of literature and science.

At table he was extremely temperate, seldom indulging in more than four glasses of wine; after which, if no affairs of state engaged his attention, he passed the afternoon in reading some favourite author to her Majesty, who even then had displayed a critical knowledge of the English language, by the great attachment which she had formed for the best plays of the Poet of the Avon.

It is well known that the King at that time, however hurried his colloquial accent, read extremely well, not only in private, but also in the delivery of his public speeches.

At supper he never went beyond a glass of wine and water: after which meal the happy pair joined in private devotion and gratitude to God for their mutual blessings, sometimes reading a portion of some well-written religious tract, and retiring at an early hour, even whilst fashionable dissipation had scarcely begun her nocturnal orgies.

The day thus spent in social comforts, each rising morn presented them with the high-flavoured joys of heart-felt delight, enjoying in them-

selves all the happiness of wedded and parental love, and exhibiting its superiority over more worldly pleasures.

It had long been a question which had engaged the attention, not only of learned men, but of most of the maritime powers of Europe, whether the unexplored part of the southern hemisphere were only an immense mass of water, or contained another continent, as was suggested to be not only possible but probable, by all the speculative geographers of the time.

To put an end to the difference of opinion upon this very important subject, had long been a point of ardent desire in the breast of the King, as well as with the Royal Society; and accordingly, at his Majesty's express recommendation, a voyage was undertaken for the final investigation of the subject. Very soon after the return of the enterprising Cook from his first voyage in the Endeavour, it was determined to equip two ships, in order to complete the discoveries then so happily begun in the southern hemisphere; and Cook, now raised to the rank of master and commander, was appointed the senior officer of the expedition. How well he performed the duty entrusted to him, is too well known to require illustration here.

1773.

It has been confidently stated, that it was the King's intention at this period to institute a new order of knighthood, to be called the Order of Minerva, for the encouragement of literature, the fine arts, and learned professions. The order was intended to consist of twenty-four knights and the Sovereign, and to be next in dignity to the military order of the Bath. The knights were to wear a silver star of nine points, and a straw-coloured ribbon from the right shoulder to the left. A figure of Minerva was to have been embroidered in the centre of the star, with the motto, "*Omnia posthabita Scientiæ.*"

So certain were the literati of the measure being adopted, that some altercation actually took place amongst the self-elected candidates for the new honours; and it is extremely probable that the only cause of its failure was the King's apprehension that the numerous jealousies which would arise, even from the fairest selection of talent and ability, would render its institution an evil rather than a benefit, especially at a moment when party measures ran so very high upon political subjects.

A circumstance took place early this year which deserves notice, as strongly marking the spirit of the times. The Lord Mayor gave notice to his household, that he should not go to St. Paul's cathedral on the day of the martyrdom of King

Charles I. and therefore their attendance would not be necessary. This, however, did not escape unnoticed. The public prints took it up, and some very severe strictures were passed upon his conduct.

On the 27th of January the Duke of Sussex was born. Notwithstanding the political bustle of those times, yet the loyalty and patriotism of the City of London often manifested themselves in a manner which we should be happy to find imitated at the present day. Indeed the address of the corporation on this particular occasion offers so pointed an example to this great metropolis, that we feel called on to insert it, as combining the undaunted expression of the truest freedom, with all that spirit even of courtly loyalty, which every true friend to his King and country ought always to exhibit.

"Most Gracious Sovereign,

"Your Majesty's loyal subsects, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London, in Common-council assembled, approach your Majesty with their congratulations, on the happy delivery of their most amiable Queen, and the birth of another Prince.

"Your faithful citizens of London, ever zealous for your Majesty's happiness, and the true honour and prosperity of your reign, will continue to re-

joice in every event which adds to your Majesty's domestic felicity; and they hope, that every branch of the august House of Brunswick will add further security to those sacred laws and liberties, which their ancestors would not suffer to be violated with impunity; and which, in consequence of the glorious and necessary revolution, that illustrious house was called upon to protect and defend."

In ordinary times such an address was certainly such an one as free men ought to present, and a constitutional monarch might fitly receive; yet there were some who pointedly thought that the turn of particular expressions savoured more of *admonition* and even of *threat*, than of compliment. His Majesty, however, whatever he might have suspected of the leaven of sedition mingled with the expression of loyalty, displayed his wonted good sense and good humour, in considering it as meaning no more than it actually and literally expressed; and he therefore replied:—

"I thank you for this dutiful address, and your congratulations on the happy delivery of the Queen, and the birth of another Prince. The religion, laws, and liberties of my people have always been, and ever shall be, the constant object of my care and attention."

This was indeed most true, as his long life manifested; and it is probable that the conscious-

ness of real constitutional feelings in his Majesty's heart really precluded him from even suspecting that any sinister ideas could be couched under such loyal expressions. He, therefore, marked his approval by conferring knighthood on Aldermen Halifax and Watkin Lewes, and also on one of the sheriffs.

On the 3d of February the sale of the jewels, trinkets, plate, gold medals, china, &c. belonging to the late Princess Dowager, was completed, when a curious French collection of silver medals of Louis XIV. and XV. were sold for only eight pounds; and a German prayer-book, with various devices, in gold enamelled, and embellished with diamonds and miniature paintings, &c. fetched twenty-six guineas. The rooms were crowded with fashion; yet so scarce was money in the fashionable world, that the whole collection sold very cheap, and the greatest part of the property was purchased by two jewellers.

His Majesty warmly patronized the expedition to the North Pole, under Lord Mulgrave; and in June he set out on a tour to Portsmouth, where he paid great attention to every thing connected with the sea service, examining many ships of war personally, and investigating every thing both in the dock-yard and ordnance wharf with the greatest precision.

He generally dined on board some of the ships,

where he held levees, at which he displayed the utmost affability, receiving all officers to the rank of lieutenants inclusive.

The loyalty displayed by the immense crowds that every where surrounded him, formed a striking contrast to the misled London mobs: and on one occasion, when he set off before five o'clock in the morning to view the ramparts and land fortifications, the guard not being mounted at such an early and unexpected hour, the soldiers followed him with great confusion, accompanied by an immense crowd; and when General Harvey apologized for the non-attendance of the guard, his Majesty, turning round, answered with great pleasantry and politeness, "Poh! poh! what need have I of further guard? my person cannot be better protected than by those handsome females that surround me."

All the various circumstances of naval and military splendour were combined during this visit to do honour to the Sovereign; who marked his sense of it by various promotions, as well as by handsome gratuities to the workmen in the dockyards and ordnance, to the seamen of the flagship and yacht, and those more immediately about his person, together with 250*l.* to the poor of the three towns which form that naval depôt.

After the delivery of the Duchess of Gloucester of the present Princess Sophia, a court of common-

council was held in the City on the 9th of June, at which it was proposed by Wilkes that an address of congratulation should be presented to the King. The motion was seconded by Sir Watkin Lewes; but considerable opposition took place, particularly on the part of Alderman Trecothick, who objected to it as an affront to his Majesty, who, up to that period, had not acknowledged the Duchess as his sister. The reply was, that the marriage was notorious; and that the Dukes of Richmond and Dorset, the Bishop of Exeter, Lady Albemarle, and other personages of the first quality, had been present at the delivery. It was, however, passed over in the negative, upon the more delicate plea, that it was not usual for the City to address, except for the issue of the immediate heir to the crown.

The Royal baptism took place a few days afterwards, when the Princess Amelia, and the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland, were the sponsors; so that it may be supposed his Majesty's displeasure at that period, was more a matter of strict etiquette than of family disagreement.

On the 6th of July his Majesty continued the proposed inspection of the dock-yards, by visiting Woolwich, where he was received with all due honours, and particularly examined the new foundery for cannon, established by Mr. Van Bruggen, in all its various details.

A newly-invented light piece of artillery was exhibited to him, constructed by General Pattison on a most convenient plan, so that both the gun and the carriage might be transported on men's shoulders to places impracticable to the usual modes of draught. He then inspected the artillery corps, and, after the usual collation, returned to town.

This year the King took Monsieur de Luc under his immediate patronage. That philosopher, on being first presented to their Majesties, met with a very gracious reception, and was permitted to exhibit some experiments with his new-invented barometer, expressly constructed for measuring heights; and for this purpose he took the height of a lofty tower, which being afterwards measured with a line, his calculations were said to approach the truth within a few inches.

This, however, is a degree of accuracy scarcely to be expected from any instrument dependant upon the action of a variable atmosphere; but it was sufficient to convince the King of its general utility, and he instantly gave leave to De Luc, to place his barometer in the Royal Observatory at Richmond; the Queen also accepted from him a hygrometer upon an improved construction, applicable to the management of the moisture and temperature of the hot and green houses of the botanical establishment at Kew.

It was delightful to see the Sovereigns of a great and powerful nation, thus filling up the intervals of royalty; indeed they both seemed anxious to avoid the parade of state, as well as the irregularities of a town life. They seldom slept at the Queen's Palace, but returned to Kew in the evenings after levees and drawing-rooms, except in the very depth of winter, devoting all their leisure time to general literature and to rural exercise.

Perhaps the best picture of their mode of life is to be found in a diary of Dr. Beattie, relating his introduction at their country residence, and which is too descriptive not to be given in his own words. The doctor says,—

"Tuesday, 24th August, 1773, set out for Dr. Majendie's, at Kew Green. The doctor told me, that he had not seen the King yesterday, but had left a note in writing, to intimate that I was to be at his house to-day; and that one of the King's pages had come to him this morning to say, 'that his Majesty would see me a little after twelve.' At twelve the doctor and I went to the King's house at Kew. We had been only a few minutes in the hall when the King and Queen came in from an airing; and as they passed through the hall, the King called me by name, and asked how long it was since I came from town. I answered him, About an hour. 'I shall see you,' says he,

'in a little while.' The doctor and I waited a considerable time, for the King was busy; and then we were called into a large room, furnished as a library, where the King was walking about, and the Queen sitting in a chair. We were received in the most gracious manner possible by both their Majesties. I had the honour of a conversation with them, nobody else being present but Dr. Majendie, for upwards of an hour, on a great variety of topics, in which both the King and Queen joined, with a degree of cheerfulness, affability, and ease, that was to me surprising, and soon dissipated the embarrassment which I felt at the beginning of the conference. They both complimented me in the highest terms on my Essay, which they said was a book they always kept by them: and the King said he had one copy of it at Kew, and another in town, and immediately went and took it down from a shelf. I found it was the second edition. 'I never stole a book but once,' said his Majesty, 'and that was yours,' (speaking to me): 'I stole it from the Queen, to give it to Lord Hertford to read.' He had heard that the sale of Hume's Essays had failed since my book was published; and I told him what Mr. Strahan had told me in regard to that matter. He had even heard of my being at Edinburgh last summer, and how Mr. Hume was offended on the score of my book. He asked

many questions about the second part of the Essay, and when it would be ready for the press. I gave him, in a short speech, an account of the plan of it; and said, my health was so precarious, I could not tell when it might be ready, as I had many books to consult before I could finish it; but that, if my health was good, I thought I might bring it to a conclusion in two or three years. He asked how long I had been in composing my Essay; praised the caution with which it was written; and said that he did not wonder that it had employed me five or six years. He asked about my Poems. I said there was only one poem of my own, on which I set any value (meaning the Minstrel), and that it was first published about the same time as the Essay. My other poems, I said, were incorrect, being but juvenile pieces, and of little consequence even in my own opinion. We had much conversation on moral subjects; from which both their Majesties let it appear that they were warm friends to Christianity; and so little inclined to infidelity, that they could hardly believe that any thinking man could really be an atheist, unless he could bring himself to believe that he had made himself:—a thought which pleased the King exceedingly, and he repeated it several times to the Queen. He asked whether any thing had been written against me. I spoke of the late pamphlet, of which I gave an account; telling

him that I had never met with any man that had read it, except one quaker. This brought on some discourse about the quakers, whose moderation and mild behaviour the King and Queen commended. I was asked many questions about the Scots universities, the revenues of the Scots clergy, their mode of praying and preaching, the medical college of Edinburgh, Dr. Gregory, and Dr. Cullen; the length of our vacation at Aberdeen, and the closeness of our attendance during the winter; the number of students that attend my lectures, my mode of lecturing, whether from notes or completely written lectures; about Mr. Hume, and Dr. Robertson, and Lord Kinnoul, and the Archbishop of York, &c.—His Majesty asked, what I thought of my new acquaintance Lord Dartmouth? I said there was something in his air and manner, which I thought not only agreeable, but enchanting, and that he seemed to me to be one of the best of men; a sentiment in which both their Majesties heartily joined. 'They say that Lord Dartmouth is an enthusiast,' said the King; 'but surely he says nothing on the subject of religion, but what every Christian may and ought to say.'

"He asked whether I did not think the English language on the decline at present? I answered in the affirmative; and the King agreed, and named the Spectator as one of the best standards

of the language. When I told him that the Scots clergy sometimes prayed a quarter, or even half an hour at a time, he asked, whether that did not lead them into repetitions? I said it often did. 'That,' said he, 'I don't like in prayers; and excellent as our liturgy is, I think it somewhat faulty in that respect.' 'Your Majesty knows,' said I, 'that three services are joined in one, in the ordinary church service, which is one cause of these repetitions.' 'True,' he replied; 'and that circumstance also makes the service too long.' From this he took occasion to speak of the composition of the church liturgy; on which he very justly bestowed the highest commendation. 'Observe,' his Majesty said, 'how flat those occasional prayers are, that are now composed, in comparison with the old ones.' When I mentioned the smallness of the church livings in Scotland, he said, 'He wondered how men of liberal education would choose to become clergymen there:' and asked, 'whether, in the remote parts of the country, the clergy in general were not very ignorant?' I answered, 'No: for that education was cheap in Scotland, and that the clergy in general were men of good sense and competent learning.' He asked whether we had any good preachers in Aberdeen? I said, Yes; and named Campbell and Gerard; with whose names, however, I did not find that he was ac-

quainted. Dr. Majendie mentioned Dr. Oswald's Appeal with commendation; I praised it too; and the Queen took down the name with a view to send for it. I was asked whether I knew Dr. Oswald? I answered, I did not; and said, that my book was published before I read his; that Dr. Oswald was well known to Lord Kinnoul, who had often proposed to make us acquainted.—We discussed a great many other topics; for the conversation lasted upwards of an hour. The Queen bore a large share in it. Both the King and her Majesty shewed a great deal of good sense, acuteness, and knowledge, as well as of good-nature and affability. At last the King took out his watch, (for it was now almost three o'clock, his hour of dinner,) which Dr. Majendie and I took as a signal to withdraw: we accordingly bowed to their Majesties, and I addressed the King in these words: 'I hope, Sir, your Majesty will pardon me, if I take this opportunity to return you my humble and most grateful acknowledgements for the honour you have been pleased to confer upon me.' He immediately answered, 'I think I could do no less for a man who has done so much service for the cause of Christianity: I shall always be glad of an opportunity to shew the good opinion I have of you.'

"The Queen sat all the while, and the King stood, sometimes walking about a little. Her

Majesty speaks the English language with surprising elegance, and little or nothing of a foreign manner; so that if she were only of the rank of a private gentlewoman, one could not help taking notice of her as one of the most agreeable women in the world. Her face is much more pleasing than any of her pictures; and in the expression of her eyes, and in her smile, there is something peculiarly engaging."

This interview was followed up by something more solid than praise, on the 4th of September, when an order was made out for a pension of 200*l.* per annum to the doctor, "on account of his literary merit."

This, we believe, was spontaneous on the part of the King, similar to the Queen's generous pension to Dr. Blair, on account of the pleasure which she had derived from reading his sermons.

It is a curious fact that none of the patronage which the King bestowed upon literature and the fine arts, seems to have been extended towards Sir Joshua Reynolds, with the exception of the knighthood conferred upon him at his election to the chair of President of the Royal Academy. It has been surmised indeed, that the royal founder felt some chagrin in consequence of the late venerable President not having been elected to that office: but his knowledge of Mr. West was then too recent to warrant that supposition. However

this may have been, it must be acknowledged that Reynolds had not the good fortune to become a favourite at court, although Cotes and Ramsay, two inferior artists, but who shared with him, in some degree, the fashion of the day, had several royal orders to execute. The only, and indeed two exquisite, portraits of the Royal Family which Reynolds painted, are those of the King and Queen in the council chamber at Somerset-house; and these were executed, not by royal command, but at the President's own desire, as a kind of duty attached to his office.

If it is true that the King felt disappointed at the election, his feelings did not, however, prevent him from giving the most solid proofs of his attachment to the art itself; for, as the proceeds of the exhibitions in early years were not sufficient to meet the expenses, his Majesty most graciously promised all necessary extra aid from his own privy purse; a promise which he strictly fulfilled by annual disbursements for some years, to the aggregate amount of at least 5000*l.*

It was in this year that a circumstance favourable to the arts was about to take place, upon which indeed his Majesty did not publicly express any opinion, though we may perhaps, from the result, draw the conclusion that he was not personally anxious for it. The ingenious biographer of Reynolds says, that the chapel of old Somerset-

house, which had been given by the King to the Royal Academy, was mentioned at one of their meetings as a place which offered a good opportunity of convincing the public at large of the advantage that would arise from ornamenting cathedrals and churches with the productions of the pencil; productions which might be useful in their effect, and not likely to give offence in a protestant country. The idea was therefore started, that if the members should ornament this chapel, the example might thus afford an opening for the introduction of the art into other places of a similar nature, and which, as it was then stated, would not only present a new and noble scene of action, that might be highly ornamental to the kingdom, but would be, in some measure, absolutely necessary for the future labours of the numerous students educated under the auspices of the Royal Academy. All the members, continues Mr. Northcote, were struck with the propriety, and even with the probability of success which attended the scheme; but Reynolds having taken it up on a bolder plan, and offering an amendment, that instead of the chapel they should fly at once at higher game, and undertake St. Paul's cathedral, the grandeur of the idea instantly struck all present; the proposal was received unanimously, and Reynolds empowered to make the offer to the dean and chapter, who in-

stantly acceded; but the design was finally dropped on the opposition of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London.

It is certainly probable that the same conscientious feeling with regard to popery, which had actuated his Majesty in other circumstances, beyond the granting free liberty of conscience, may have induced him to offer hints to the archbishop; yet it is not the less true that paintings do actually exist in the church, in the interior of the dome painted by Thornhill.

His Majesty made a second visit to Woolwich in the autumn, to see the effect of some curious smoke balls, invented by General Desaguliers, the intention of which, as exemplified in a mock engagement, was to cover an assailing body when repulsed from a strong position, and thus prevent the enemy from availing themselves of the consequent confusion.

Some specimens of quick firing were also exhibited, when thirteen rounds of case shot were fired from a long three-pounder, within the space of twenty-six seconds, sending 579 shot through the first target, representing a brigade in the first line of battle, at the distance of 400 yards, and a greater number through the second target, at a distance of 200 yards in rear of the first; a performance which drew great praises from his Majesty.

In October this year the statue of his Majesty in Berkeley-square was first opened to public view; and it was about this date that the late venerable president of the Royal Academy was appointed historical painter to the King. Soon after this Mr. West executed the paintings from the wars of Edward III. in St. George's Hall at Windsor; but it was not until 1790 that he was appointed surveyor of the Royal pictures.

1774.

In this year the King declared himself patron of the Royal Humane Society;* and about this

* This patronage was afterwards justly noted at a public meeting, immediately after the royal demise; when, speaking of the Institution, it was said—" For nearly forty years it continued to receive the benefit of his patronage; a patronage never lightly bestowed, and which was the more distinguished and effective, because wisely and judiciously reserved for institutions which he deemed of pre-eminent benefit to his country.

" In expressing their profound sense of the loss which the society has sustained, the directors and governors now present would gratefully record—that if the Institution were originally founded on the most enlightened views of science, and the purest principles of benevolence; if it have since become the means of methodizing and perfecting, to a considerable extent, the processes of resuscitative art, and of extending those processes, within a period of forty years, to the restoration of several thousands of lives; if, in addition to this, it have given birth to many similar associations, both in various parts of our

time also his Majesty displayed his fine taste for the arts, by discovering the abilities of Gainsborough, who, though much admired during his residence at Ipswich by his friends, found himself but unprofitably situated when he attempted to practise in the metropolis. But the King, who was always inquiring after talent, having heard some mention of him, engaged the neglected painter to execute that full-length of himself which has long been so much admired at Buckingham-house; soon after which he had the honour to paint the whole Royal Family. His picture of the "Woodman in the Storm" drew great praise from the King, as well as much public admiration.

So little was the American contest expected to assume a serious form in the beginning of 1774, that when on the 13th of January, the King opened the Session of Parliament with a speech from the throne, his Majesty observed that the state of foreign affairs then afforded full leisure for the legislature to attend to the improvement of our

country and in foreign nations—to the late revered and lamented King belongs the glory of having taken it by the hand when but an infant institution, and of having led it through the dangers and difficulties of its first establishment and incipient efforts.

"Thus, in becoming the Patron of the Humane Society, his Majesty distinctively and prominently recommended it to public notice and encouragement; to him, therefore, is to be justly ascribed a large measure both of its success and glory."

internal and domestic situation, and to the prosecution of such measures as more immediately respected the preservation and advancement of the revenue and commerce of the empire. But these happy prospects were speedily terminated by information of the Boston riots, when a message was delivered to the Houses of Parliament on that subject, accompanied by numerous explanatory state documents, and followed up by a series of strong restrictive measures, which met with a strong opposition, but were finally carried notwithstanding the almost prophetic warning of Mr. Rose Fuller on the last reading of the bill. To expatiate on the political question is no part of our present personal biography; but without taking any decided part on the point of political right, we may be permitted to express two opinions on the point of political expediency. The first of these is, that Britain has derived more commercial profit from America, since her independence, than she probably would have done in the same precise years, had the United States still been subject to our controul; and the second is, that it would have been a blessing to both nations if that independence could at once have been granted without a contest. Considering the nature of man, indeed, and his political prejudices, such a measure was not to be expected; but after-ages may learn a lesson from it, when other colonies,

confident in their own strength, shall become anxious for their own independence. Let the politicians of that future day calmly inquire whether dominion can be effectually preserved. If not, then acquiescence will be the wisest plan. To colonize is generally advantageous, sometimes necessary; but the time must at length arrive, when, able to protect themselves, a desire of independence will arise in the breasts of those who inhabit large colonies; the best wisdom will then be, to yield gracefully to existing circumstances, instead of commencing a scene of bloodshed and increased expenditure.

Nor can such calculations be very difficult, if plain facts are adverted to. At the very period of which we are now speaking, Dr. Franklin, in writing to a friend, says—"Britain, at the expense of three millions, has killed a hundred and fifty Yankees this campaign, which is 20,000*l.* a head; and at Bunker's-hill she gained a mile of ground, half of which she lost again by our taking post on Ploughed-hill. During the same time, sixty thousand children have been born in America: from these data may easily be calculated the time and expense necessary to kill us all, and conquer the whole territory."

About the same time also Dr. Price published his well-known Treatise; and the late Duke of Cumberland, seeing him in an antichamber of the

House of Lords, expressed his approbation of it; adding, that he had sat up so late the night before to read it, that it almost blinded him. Mr. Dunning, afterwards Lord Ashburton, who happened to be present, observed he was sorry his Royal Highness should be affected in such a manner by a work which had opened the eyes of the greatest part of the nation!

By this digression it is not intended to deny that those who claim protection owe allegiance; that the mother country must always have the right of judgment as well as the colony; nor that the principles of common sense and self-preservation justify the mother country in using force, when a permitted independence on the part of the colony would throw the latter at the mercy of an enemy: it is only hinted at, to shew that circumstances may exist to justify consent to separation without any impeachment of national honour, when conciliation may preserve friendship, though coercion cannot maintain dominion.

To England, America then owed every thing; but had she then been subjected, her subjugation could only have been of short continuance; therefore, without disputing our right, we may lament our policy.

The King at this period was remarkable for his early hours, always rising at six o'clock, and forming his arrangements so as to call the two succeed-

ing hours his own. Whilst residing at Kew, the custom was always at eight o'clock to assemble all the elder children at Kew-house to breakfast, to which meal one hour was allotted; when, at nine, the younger issue were brought in to lisp their good-morrows. The elder then were set seriously to their tasks, whilst the others were dismissed with their nurses to ramble through the gardens.

The children all dined together at an early hour*, and that meal was always a matter of amusement to their Majesties, who often took a ramble afterwards in the gardens, until their own dinner-hour, accompanied by all the royal progeny in pairs.

After dinner the Queen took up some piece of elegant work, and the King, if not engaged in business, cheered the afternoon hours by some amusing or instructive reading; and it was well observed, that whatever charms ambition or folly might conceive as attendant upon so exalted a

* The children's fare was always homely and free from luxury. In a recent obituary, noticing the death of Mr. Gaskoin, a Lincolnshire farmer, we find it stated that it was from his wife, when on a visit to the Queen many years ago, that the *Gaskoin caps* received their name. She was also employed while on this visit, in making for the King *rye bread*, which homely fare was so much approved of by his Majesty, that the old lady, during her life, made a rule of sending his Majesty a treat of this sort annually; and the practice was continued by Mrs. G.'s daughter.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

ADOLPHUS FREDERICK

DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE,

BORN FEBY. 24: 1774.

situation, it was neither on the throne, nor in the drawing-room, nor in the splendour of the toys of sovereignty, that the royal couple placed their felicity; but, next to the fulfilling the duties of their station, it was in social and domestic gratifications, in breathing the free air, admiring the works of nature, tasting and encouraging the elegancies of art; and, above all, in living to their own hearts.

In the evening it was customary for all the children again to pay their duty at Kew-house, before they retired to rest; and the same order was observed through each succeeding day. But this strict attention to domestic duties and pleasures did not prevent his Majesty from a due observance of all those claims which his exalted situation had upon him. He attended sedulously to state affairs, yet still appeared the father of his family, redressing every grievance that came to his ear, encouraging merit and ingenuity of every kind, wherever discovered, and following with ease, yet with precision, a line of conduct as exemplary as it was amiable.

In his public capacity he always shewed himself a lover of peace, though a sense of public duty induced him to join in the adoption of forcible measures to put down the rebellion of the Colonies; but though a lover of peace, he did not shut his eyes to the pomp and circumstance of military

affairs. To him it was always a source of pleasure to exercise the troops; and in this he displayed a degree of technical knowledge and precision equal to that of the most affected martinet.

In his more retired studies, topography, of all kinds, was a most favourite pursuit. He even went so far as to make copies of the best charts, and models of all the principal fortifications of Europe; and it was a well-known fact that he was even well conversant with the soundings of the most important ports, and also with the strong and weak sides of the best fortifications throughout the world. He likewise knew the names, numbers, uniforms, &c. of every regiment, their officers generally, their past deeds, and present points of service; to which we must add a correct knowledge of the names and force of every ship in the navy, with their commanders, and in short much of the tact and tactics of both services.

In educating his children his object was to teach them the same species of useful knowledge, in addition to classical acquirements, in which even at that early period they were acknowledged to surpass their contemporaries as much as in absolute rank. For the elder boys, eight hours' close application to the languages, and the liberal sciences, were strictly enjoined; and this was followed up by the most unremitted industry. The younger branches were not so closely confined to

study; but there was no favouritism: all submitted to the same regulations in general. Exercise, air, and light diet, were the grand fundamentals in the King's ideas of health and sprightliness. He himself then fed chiefly on vegetables, and drank but little wine; and the same system was pursued with the children.

In the household, regularity was indeed said to amount to abstemiousness; but on this subject a thousand stories were circulated, though all really unfounded. The only real subject of complaint was on the part of the maids of honour, who remonstrated against the disuse of suppers; and though the King would not break through his previous arrangements, yet he settled the business at once, by ordering an addition to their allowances in lieu.

The malevolence of party, at this moment, did great injustice to the King's character, both public and private. Many of the leading demagogues were men of most immoral conduct, and were either blind to, or felt themselves shamed by, the domestic virtues of their Monarch, who, in spite of unmerited calumny, still shewed himself animated by the noblest intentions, and by the warmest affection for his people. But it was then the fashion of the day to represent him as despotic, inflexible, vindictive, and anxious to domineer both at home and in the colonies, by mea-

sures the most tyrannical and unconstitutional. His love of retirement was called *Asiatic seclusion;* his pleasures were misrepresented; his taste satirized; and his most harmless recreations held up to public ridicule; his economy designated avarice; and even his religious principles exposed to derision. His fondness for gardening was seized upon by our English garden poet, Mason, as the text for a satire upon Chambers's Oriental Gardening; and, perhaps against the poet's wish, the ridicule intended for Chambers was thrown upon the King.

His Majesty at this period had an idea of creating a new order amongst the baronets, to include all of one century's standing. The insignia of the order to be worn on the left breast, consisting of a small globe, embroidered with the device, "Chevalier de Cent ans."

1775.

The botanical garden at Kew received in the course of this year a most valuable supply of exotics, by the return of Mr. Mason from the Cape of Good Hope, whom his Majesty had sent thither about three years before, to collect seeds and plants. The acquisitions made by Mr. Mason were both new and valuable; that able practical botanist having travelled near 900 miles to the north of the Cape, and seen more of the interior

of Africa than had previously been visited by Europeans.

Much praise is due to the King for his personal patronage of the intrepid Cook, who from the able manner in which he performed his voyage for the investigation of the southern hemisphere, had indeed justly and powerfully recommended himself to the protection and encouragement of all those who had patronized that undertaking. Lord Sandwich in particular took the first opportunity of representing his merits to his Majesty, who instantly and warmly expressed his anxiety to confer every professional favour upon a man who had so eminently fulfilled his royal and munificent intentions; and accordingly the able navigator was raised to the rank of post-captain, and three days afterwards, at the King's express desire, appointed to the honourable and comfortable retreat of a captain of Greenwich Hospital, as a pleasing and appropriate reward for his illustrious labours and services.

Dr. Askew's library was sold this year, a collection, in regard to Greek and Roman literature, unique in its day, and sought after by almost every man then eminent for bibliographical research. His Majesty displayed his good taste by laying out upwards of 300*l.* in purchases.

During this and the preceding year, a long cor-

respondence was carried on between the King, and the unhappy Queen of Denmark, then at Zell, which is said by a well-known biographical baronet, to have been of a most interesting nature, and in which he was confidentially employed. This, however, was a business totally distinct from national state affairs, and its reward came within the scope of his Majesty's private munificence, which he manifested by a very gracious and very liberal present of one thousand guineas, paid through the medium of Lord North, and accompanied with assurances of future employment for the negotiator.

It was now the fashion of the day for the London patriots to object to the American war; and on the 10th of April, the Lord Mayor, some of the Aldermen, the Sheriffs, and a Committee of the Livery, waited on his Majesty with an address, remonstrance, and petition, against the American war generally, but also stating other grounds of complaint.

The King answered, that it was with the utmost astonishment that he found any of his subjects capable of encouraging the rebellious disposition which unhappily existed in some of the North American Colonies; but, having entire confidence in the wisdom of Parliament, he was determined to pursue the measures which they had

recommended for the support of the constitutional rights of Great Britain, and the protection of the commercial interests of his kingdoms.

It was on the next day that a letter was sent to the Lord Mayor by the Lord Chamberlain, said to be to the following purport:—

"My Lord, I am ordered by his Majesty to acquaint your lordship, as chief magistrate of the City of London, that his Majesty will not receive, *on the throne*, any address, remonstrance, or petition, of the Lord Mayor and Aldermen, but in their corporate capacity."

This was evidently done for the purpose of preventing insulting addresses being *read* to the King: for though, at that moment, the City patriots had the command of the Common Hall, yet the *Corporation*, as such, was still free from their grasp.

The 28th of June was remarkable for bringing to issue the dispute between his Majesty and the City of London, respecting the mode and manner of presenting addresses. The Sheriffs attended at court at St. James's, in obedience to the King's appointment as notified to them at Kew; and Mr. Sheriff Plomer addressing the King said—"May it please your Majesty, we are ordered by the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Livery of the City of London, in Common-hall assembled, to wait upon your Majesty, humbly to know your Majes-

ty's Royal will and pleasure, when your Majesty will be pleased to receive upon the throne their humble address, remonstrance, and petition." To this the King replied, "You will please to take notice that I will receive their address, remonstrance, and petition, on Friday next at the levee." Mr. Sheriff Plomer then said, "Your Majesty will permit us to inform you that the livery in Common-hall assembled have resolved not to present their address, remonstrance, and petition, unless your Majesty shall be pleased to receive it sitting on the throne."

The King answered mildly, but with dignity, to this reply: "I am ever ready to receive addresses and petitions: but I am the judge where."

On the 4th of July the Common-hall met at Guildhall, when the Lord Mayor read the report of the Sheriffs, and added, as his Majesty did not think fit to receive the address on the throne, he (the Mayor) thought it his duty not to go up with it; and *humbly* submitted the further proceedings to the consideration of the livery; when a member expatiated on the unanimity, spirit, and perseverance, which "at that critical time" ought to influence the livery, as the most effectual mode of obtaining what they called redress. This person then read some resolutions, which were approved, and ordered to be presented to the King; in the mean time the Common-hall, or somebody for

them, caused the withdrawn address to be printed, in which were loud denunciations against the American war, strong accusations of despotism, some most extraordinary reasoning about arbitrary power, the unalterable rights of human nature, invasion of American rights, justification of American resistance, and threats against ministers. To enumerate all the charges against that cabinet, would exceed our plan; but it is deserving of record that one of them was the having "given their sanction to popery."

On the 5th the Sheriffs again went to St. James's, when Mr. Sheriff Plomer again informed his Majesty that they were ordered to present him with some resolutions entered into by the Common-hall, in which, after claiming the right of presenting petitions to the King on his throne, (not as a matter of grace and favour,) the Livery very roundly asserted that the King's previous answer was a *direct* denial *in toto* of the right of the court to have their petitions *heard*.

In all this there seemed to be a juggle, which perhaps few of the supporters of these measures fully understood. That the subjects have a right to petition is a clear constitutional axiom; but the citizens of London say, "That the King is bound to *hear* the petitions of his people." Now if by the word "hear" is generally meant that the people have the right to petition, it matters little

whether the petition is spoken to the King, or presented to him in writing; but the Common-hall claimed a right of having their petitions read to the King upon the throne, whereas at the levee they would only be presented, as is the case with all other petitions generally speaking; from whence it follows, that if the London resolution is *literally* correct, every other body, even though not a corporation, has the right of reading their petitions to the King, or else the Common-hall claimed a right beyond the general rights of the constitution. That the custom had been and still is for the Corporation to present petitions to the throne is true; but that custom is only a local right, and therefore the resolution ought to have expressed it: but here the general right of petitioning was so ingeniously entwined with the local right or custom of the Corporation of London, mixing up with it the claim of the Livery, that thousands and tens of thousands actually believed that the offer of his Majesty to receive the petition at the levee fully justified the resolution that the answer was a denial, and "that such denial renders the right of petitioning the throne, recognized and established by the Revolution, of no effect."

Whether the Common-hall have or have not a right to read their petitions to the King, is fair matter of debate; but surely there never was a

more erroneous conclusion than that the offer to receive their petition at the levee, as is done with all, or almost all, other petitions, was a denial of the subjects' right generally. To these resolutions the King returned no answer; but a few days afterwards, to an address from the Common-council, he answered that he was always ready to listen to the dutiful petitions of his subjects, and ever happy to comply with their reasonable requests; but while the constitutional authority of Britain was openly resisted by a part of his American subjects, he owed it to the rest of his people, of whose zeal and fidelity he had such constant proofs, to continue and enforce the policy then pursued.

On the 7th the Corporation of London, seemingly as if the quarrel with the American Colonies arose from aggression on the part of the mother country, thought proper to present an address to the King, praying that he would be pleased to cause hostilities to cease between Great Britain and America, and to adopt such measures as would restore union, confidence, and peace over the British empire. Some considerable debate arose before this measure was carried, but at length it was very respectfully presented, graciously received, and answered, but certainly with a degree of forcible reasoning which ought to have been a complete reply to all the public clamour of the time.

His Majesty, with a steady dignity, read his reply, which was justly a simple confession of his faith upon this subject; and shewed most manifectly that the country was placed in a dilemma, and must either prosecute the hostile measures adopted, or at once throw up all claims of sovereignty over the Colonies, a measure which must have been instantly followed by the loss of the West Indies, and indeed of all footing on the American continent.

"I am always," said the Royal answer, "ready to listen to the dutiful petitions of my subjects, and ever happy to comply with their reasonable requests: but while the constitutional authority of this kingdom is openly resisted by a part of my American subjects, I owe it to the rest of my people, of whose zeal and fidelity I have had such constant proofs, to continue and enforce those measures, by which alone their rights and interests can be asserted and maintained."

The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge appear to have thought very differently from the citizens of London upon this subject; for they addressed the King to continue the war: but it was now out of his power to do otherwise; for hostilities had commenced, and the Congress of all the States had assembled, and although they assumed an appearance of a wish for conciliation,

by voting an address to the King, or rather a petition, which was presented by Mr. Penn, proprietary governor of Pennsylvania, yet it has been well ascertained that a separation from the mother country was the secret resolution of a few of the leaders; and this it was which offended the King so much, that he returned no answer to the petition, evidently considering it as a mere *ruse de guerre* on the part of the rebels to throw the blame upon the British Government, in the eyes of the prejudiced and miscalculating in England.

An extraordinary circumstance happened about this period, which some of the historians of the time seem to consider as a mere absurdity; but when we consider how high party spirit ran at the period, when we reflect on the very inefficient state of the police, and more particularly on the fact of the person accused being an American by birth, though a banker in London, we are the more disposed to give credit to the report of a conspiracy being then on foot to seize the person of the King, and to convey him out of the kingdom. The banker was arrested by a warrant from Lord Rochford, secretary of state, but was admitted to bail before Lord Mansfield; and on his recognizance being afterwards discharged, he got a verdict of 1000*l.* damages for false imprisonment.

The charge was first made by Adjutant Richard-

son, of the Guards; perhaps prematurely, before legal proofs could be collected. If so, the discovery put a stop to all further machinations.

1776.

It was in this year that the Congress threw off their absolute allegiance; as they then issued a declaration, in which they assigned reasons for withdrawing that allegiance from the King of Great Britain. In this paper they discarded that constitutional language in which alone complaints should ever be expressed by loyal British subjects; and directed all their charges in unqualified terms against the throne itself. They no longer complained of a British Parliament, or a British Ministry, but of a British King. This might be agreeable to the mere form of a declaration of independence; but in point of fact, was very incorrect; for though many persons at home had been and were even then advocates for conciliation, yet certainly the popular feeling was not in favour of an unlimited grant of independence. Nay, had the King himself even expressed a wish to save bloodshed by an absolute grant to the Americans of their full and entire claims, those who remember that period must be well aware that such a wish would have been as unpopular as unavailing. At this moment, a number of foreign troops were engaged in our service; and

on the 4th of March the House of Commons addressed the King relative to clothing all the troops, in British pay, with British manufactures. To this his Majesty most graciously replied, that being always desirous to give every encouragement in his power to the manufactures of Great Britain, he would use his endeavours, as recommended by their address.*

His Majesty's feelings and intentions with respect to the revolted colonies, cannot be better explained than in his answer on the 23d of March to the Address and Petition of the Corporation of London, on the subject of that contest; when the royal answer was—"I deplore, with the deepest concern, the miseries which a great part of my subjects in America have brought upon themselves by an unjustifiable resistance to the con-

* Beaumarchais, better known as a literary than as a political character, may be considered as one of the chief promoters of the cause of American independence. He had purchased in Holland not fewer than 60,000 muskets, at a very low price, and sold them again upon credit to American agents. The sly author of Figaro was aware that if the Americans should fail in their attempt, it would be all over with his demand, as well as with their liberty. He therefore endeavoured, by all possible means, to prevail upon the minister Count Maurepas, to whom he had previously gained access, and whom he amused with his witty sallies, to take part in the war; and it was he chiefly who decided that statesman to commence hostilities with Great Britain.

stitutional authority of this kingdom; and I shall be ready and happy to alleviate those miseries by acts of mercy and clemency, whenever that authority shall be established, and the now existing rebellion at an end: to obtain these salutary purposes, I will invariably pursue the most proper and effectual means."

The Queen was delivered of the present Duchess of Gloucester on the 25th of April: and as the City of London addressed his Majesty on this occasion in a different style from their usual addresses, some notice of that style will not be out of place. After offering the usual congratulations, they begged leave to assure him that there were not, in all his dominions, any subjects more faithful, or more ready to maintain the true honour and dignity of the crown.

To this they added, that they would continue to rejoice in every event which might add to his Majesty's domestic felicity; expressing at the same time a hope that every branch of the august house of Brunswick would add further security to those sacred laws and liberties, which their ancestors would not suffer to be violated with impunity; and which, in consequence of the glorious and necessary Revolution, that House was called on to defend.

To this address his Majesty answered, that he thanked them for their expression of duty; add-

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS

MARY,

DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER,

BORN APRIL 25: 1776.

ing—"the security of the laws and liberties of my people has always been, and ever shall be, the chief object of my care and attention."

A new expedition was set on foot this year for exploring the possibility of a north-west passage; not on the plan of former voyages, but from the Pacific Ocean into the North Sea. On this subject the King felt a very warm interest; yet such was his delicacy in regard to the veteran Cook, now considered as resting from his labours, that he would not permit the admiralty to ask him to take the command, but merely to take his opinion as to who was the fittest person to superintend this important research.

This was no sooner done, than Captain Cook instantly offered to execute his Majesty's wishes, and his offer was most graciously accepted; the King at the same time not only giving orders that every comfort should be supplied to the daring navigators themselves, but that all species of useful cattle, poultry, plants, seeds, and utensils, should be provided for the benefit of the various lands already discovered, and which might now either be discovered or revisited.

The issue of this is well known. Cook fell a sacrifice to the fury of the Sandwich Islanders, in the execution of what he conceived both duty and policy: and his Majesty did all that was desired to alleviate the sorrows of his widow and

the promotion of his sons, not one of whom, nor a single descendant from Cook, is now in existence.

It was in June this year that the complete change already alluded to took place in the Prince's household, by Lord Bruce retiring from the office of Governor, in which he was succeeded by the Duke of Montague; soon after which Dr. Markham, promoted to the archbishoprick of York, gave up the office of Preceptor to Dr. Hurd; Dr. Cyril Jackson also being succeeded by Mr. Arnald,* tutor of St. John's, Cambridge.

It has been said that this change was occasioned by the King's displeasure at Dr. Markham; but this is not very probable, when we consider the high promotion given to him immediately afterwards. Indeed, his interest with the King must

* Mr. Arnald, the sub-preceptor, was a person of most promising genius, and was rewarded with a canonry at Windsor; but his mind was too delicate for the close study to which he addicted himself, and he died insane in 1802.

During the progress of this unhappy malady, he received great attention and kindness from the King, who, no doubt, felt much sympathy for this amiable man.

Of the Duke of Montague an anecdote is related, that having attended the levee for the first time after a visit to his daughter's family at Dalkeith-house, his Majesty, on making the usual compliments, inquired of the Duke about the health of his grandchildren. His grace, thanking his Majesty, told them they were all well, and making a meal of oatmeal pottage every day.

have been very strong; for when Mr. Pitt promised the first vacancy in the deanery of that see to Dr. Clarke, his Majesty told him it could not be, as he himself intended it for the eldest son of Dr. Markham, who received it some time afterwards in opposition to the Premier's interest.

Nor can we doubt the archbishop's preceptorial abilities, he having been head-master of Westminster-School for upwards of fourteen years, the duties of which he discharged with great reputation.

The King this year manifested his high feeling of clerical merit, by the unsolicited patronage bestowed upon the venerable Dr. Porteus. That respectable clergyman had held the office of royal chaplain since the year 1769, and now on the 20th of December he kissed his Majesty's hand, on his promotion to the bench of bishops, with

His Majesty asked if they got good oatmeal. The Duke told him they had it excellent from Mr. James Mutter, of Middle Mills, near Laswade; upon which his Majesty desired the Duke to commission some for him; and from that time the Royal Family were supplied with the same article from the same mills.

This fully marks the extreme simplicity with which the Royal offspring were brought up at a period when luxury seems to have pervaded all ranks of society, from infancy to old age. It also forms some answer to those who would prove the distress of the country by the Poor being forced to eat *oatmeal* instead of the best flour!

the see of Chester; a preferment, says his biographer, on his part perfectly unsolicited, and so entirely unlooked for, that, till a short time before it happened, he had not the smallest expectation of it. Indeed it is said that he was indebted for it to the Queen's application.

The Royal Family now became more frequent residents at Windsor, where they were on the 12th of August, when the Prince of Wales's birth-day was observed with more than usual solemnity. The morning having commenced with firing of guns, ringing of bells, &c. the royal party set out at ten o'clock in procession from the castle to the cathedral, the Princesses following their royal parents, and after them the Princes, two and two. At the door of St. George's chapel they were received by the canons, poor knights, &c. when service was performed to a most courtly assemblage, after which the whole royal family mixed familiarly with crowds of happy faces upon the terrace, and were received with three volleys from the 25th regiment, drawn up in the park, amidst the loudest acclamations of joy.

Through life the King had always an ardent curiosity to see every thing remarkable for novelty, and to converse with those who were noted even for their peculiarities. The extreme difference between his own rank and that of those whom he sometimes patronized, was often the subject of

illiberal and ill-mannered ridicule; but the following *jeu d'esprit,* which appeared in the St. James's Chronicle on the 17th of December, 1776, and which Mr. Nichols attributes to the witty George Steevens, deserves to be recorded:—

"Q——'s Palace.

"Sir,

"Politicians from this place inform us that a new favourite has lately engrossed the K—'s attention, who bids fair to supplant the celebrated Pinchy and the facetious Grimaldi in the royal favours. It is no less a person than the old deaf Moravian, James Hutton, who was formerly a bookseller, and lived near Temple-bar, famous for his refusing to sell Tom Browne's Works, and Clarke on the Trinity. A certain lady who called at his shop for this last book, was induced by curiosity to know the bookseller's reasons for his refusal; but whether he made a convert of the lady, or the lady of him, history is silent. Since that time he has travelled all over Germany and Switzerland, to spread the Moravian doctrine, and make proselytes to Count Zinzendorf's creed. Whether his Majesty intends to raise Moravian regiments by Hutton's means among the faithful, to propagate the ministerial doctrine of unconditional submission in America, I know not; but this I am sure of, that a conversation between the King and

Hutton must be exceedingly entertaining: Hutton is so deaf that a speaking-trumpet will scarce make him hear; and the King talks so fast that an ordinary converser cannot possibly keep pace with him. Hutton's asthma makes him subject to frequent pauses and interruptions; so that two interpreters will be necessary to explain matters between the King and his new favourite. I hope Hutton and the Scotch junto are upon good terms, else he will soon be obliged to discontinue his visits at Buckingham-house. After all, Hutton is an honest, humane, and sensible man, and worthy a king's regard; and however bigotted he was formerly, and averse to selling the works of Samuel Clarke, I am told one of his favourite authors at present is honest Lawrence Sterne, author of Tristram Shandy.

"CURRENT REPORT."

1777.

We have seen it recorded that the King at this period, notwithstanding his political anxieties, was peculiarly desirous of patronizing literature, and indeed had several conversations with the late Lord Liverpool on this subject, respecting the best method of encouraging literary merit, and the most liberal but economic mode of executing the plan which had been laid before him for establishing an academy in imitation of that at

Paris, but uniting in itself the various objects embraced in France by the Academy of Sciences, and also that of Belles Lettres.

Lord North, who was then understood to be very desirous of seconding his Majesty's wishes, to render his reign illustrious by patronizing the agreeable as well as the useful arts, proposed that the literary order of merit, without salaries, should forthwith be adopted: but the King is said to have been more partial to the plan of salaries, as necessary to many men whose ingenuity would entitle them to a place, but whose circumstances would demand a pecuniary reward.

It was proposed to have three classes, each of ten members, with salaries of 2, 3, and 400*l.* a year, adding 100*l.* more to the president of each class; but the increasing national expenses in the prosecution of the war seem to have stifled the plan in its very infancy. The idea of honours without salary was well exemplified by Goldsmith, who, on writing to a friend an account of his appointment as Professor of History to the Royal Academy, compared it to "granting ruffles without a shirt!"

On the 8th of May, 1777, the King gave the royal assent to a bill granting him 100,000*l.* per annum over and above the sum of 800,000*l.* which had been settled at his accession as the amount of the civil list. This arrangement met with con-

siderable opposition in both houses; and in the Peers fourteen members signed a protest, in which they recorded their dissent, not solely from motives of economy, but from a dread also of the effect of such an augmentation on the honour and integrity of Parliament, by vesting such large sums without account in the hands of ministers.

They further asserted that an opinion was known to prevail, and which they had no means of contradicting, that the civil list revenues were employed in creating an undue influence in Parliament; and as it would therefore be unbecoming in them to vote the additional sum under such circumstances, they begged leave to represent to his Majesty, that the proposed increase of the overgrown influence of the Crown would be a treacherous gift from Parliament even to the Crown itself, as it would enable ministers to carry on what the protestors considered as delusive schemes, and which would infallibly tend to the destruction of the empire.

On the 25th of June, whilst the King was going to the theatre in the Haymarket, an alarm was excited by a mad woman, who broke the glass of his chair, and was about to proceed to other acts of violence, when she was seized by the attendants, and placed under the controul of the peace officers.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS

PRINCESS SOPHIA,

BORN NOVR 8: 1777.

It was on the 27th of June that Dodd met his untimely fate. The Queen's feelings were on this occasion greatly interested; but the King was inexorable—or rather "conscientious," observing, that "the crime which he had committed was greater in a clergyman than in any other person."

We have seen it stated on good authority, that Dodd himself observed to the late excellent Mr. Latrobe, on the night preceding his execution, that "the King was humane; but justice and love to the nation prevented his extending mercy to him." He begged, therefore, "that the King and his counsellors might not be charged with cruelty," and prayed most fervently on their behalf. The doctor acknowledged that "the love of this world" had led him astray, and appeared to die sincerely penitent."

Dr. Dodd, when chaplain in ordinary to his Majesty, had fallen under his displeasure in consequence of having made an indecorous venal offer to a lady of distinction, for high preferment in the church; in consequence of which the King erased his name from the list of his chaplains.

The Princess Sophia was born on the 3d of November.

1778.

His Majesty now seems to have been occupied in making arrangements for the future settlement of his numerous family: and on the 8th of April,

1778, he sent a message to Parliament, calling on the two houses to enable him to make suitable provisions for his younger children, out of the hereditary revenues of the crown, which could not be done without an act of parliament for that purpose.

This proposal went to the settling an annuity of 60,000*l.* on the six younger princes; of 50,000*l.* on the five princesses, and of 12,000*l.* on the present Duke and Princess Sophia of Gloucester; but these annuities were only to take effect, in the first instance, on the demise of his Majesty; and secondly, on the demise of the then Duke of Gloucester.

The message was received with good will by Parliament; and a bill passed, to which the royal assent was soon afterwards given.

The King was much occupied this year with military and naval reviews; and his first visit was to Chatham on the 24th of April, whither he went accompanied by the Earl of Sandwich, then first lord of the admiralty. He chose to proceed by water, embarking at Greenwich on board the Augusta yacht, in which he went down the river, and up the Medway, arriving at the dock-yard the next day, where he was received amidst a full chorus of shipwrights, singing "God save the King." His Majesty then landed, and made a partial survey of the works, but did not take up his

residence on shore. After dining on board the yacht, he again proceeded in his examination, going over every thing with the closest inspection until dark. On the 26th, he gave up some time to ceremonials; and, after reviewing the first Royals, held a public levee at the house of the commissioner, where he received the various officers, and numbers of the gentry in the vicinage, together with the Mayor and Corporation of Rochester, who made their compliments, and were most graciously received.

The remainder of the day was spent in a minute examination of the Victory; on board of which ship he the next day held a naval levee, attended by all the captains and officers of the ships then fitting out at Sheerness and lying at the Nore. After the levee his Majesty went down the Medway in his barge to Sheerness, where he landed in the dock-yard, which he attentively examined, visiting the docks, the batteries, the naval and ordnance storehouses, &c.; and at noon pulled up the river in his barge to Blackstakes, where the yacht had arrived, and going on board of her proceeded to the Nore, and from thence to Greenwich, where he landed at midnight on his way to town.

His second naval excursion this year was to Portsmouth; setting off, accompanied by the Queen, on the 2d of May. On their arrival at the dock-yard, they were received with all due

formalities, passing through the whole body of the workmen, who saluted them with the heartiest cheers.

On the next day, Sunday, their Majesties attended divine service at the garrison chapel, which was followed by a public levee, at which the Queen was present, though none but gentlemen were introduced.

On Monday, whilst the Queen paid a visit to the fleet at Spithead, the King remained for some time occupied in inspecting the ordnance departments, which he did in a most careful and official manner. He afterwards proceeded to Spithead, and was rowed in his barge all through the fleet, whilst the Queen was cruizing in one of the royal yachts; and having then gone on board the Prince George, he saw the ship cleared for action, and the exercise of the guns performed, after which a naval levee was held in due form.

The Queen's yacht passing whilst he was on board the Prince George, she was received by a royal salute from all the ships in the fleet; soon after which the King went on board the yacht to dinner, inviting the flag and general officers, &c. to dine with him. When the Queen's health was drunk, a general salute was fired from all the ships; and the same took place when the King drank to the prosperity of the navy, and to all his good subjects by sea and land.

During the whole of this superb exhibition, the day was remarkably fine, and an incredible number of vessels, pleasure yachts, and boats, attended their Majesties. On their return in the evening, all the houses in the three towns were most brilliantly illuminated, a compliment at which the royal tourists expressed great satisfaction. The two succeeding days were spent in a most minute examination of the fortifications, the rope and store-houses, the naval academy, and every thing connected with the victualling department, even to the brewery at Weevil. On the 7th the King paid a visit to Stanstead, the seat of Lord Halifax, and afterwards inspected several ships in various states of building and repair; and the ensuing day having been spent in a cruize on board the Princess Augusta to St. Helen's, the Mother Bank, and through the numerous merchantmen lying in Stoke's Bay, the royal pair passed once more through the fleet at Spithead in the evening, where they received a parting salute from every ship, and also from all the batteries around; they then landed at the dock-yard, receiving a parting cheer from all the assembled workmen, and returned to the Queen's house much pleased with their excursion.

His Majesty still continued his personal attentions to the school at Eton; and on the 27th of July he went thither accompanied by the Queen,

several of the princes, and a long train of nobility, in order to hear the speeches of the young gentlemen educated there. On this occasion the present Marquis Wellesley particularly distinguished himself by the delivery of Lord Strafford's speech before execution; and literally drew tears from the whole audience.*

As the style of royal living was of the most domesticated kind, so were the King's manners and appearance equally unostentatious. It was now his frequent practice to wander about the environs of Windsor, totally unattended and accompanied only by the Prince; and on one of those occasions he happened to meet a farmer's carter passing on towards Windsor with a load of hay, when by some accident the cart was caught in a deep rut, and the rustic was totally unable to move it. The royal ramblers, regardless of etiquette, instantly rushed forward to assist him; and having succeeded in extricating the cart, though with considerable difficulty, honest John, with a heart overflowing with gratitude, expressed his thanks, and hoped they would take a daught of ale with him at the next house, offering them at the same time a seat upon his cart.

* On the Prince's birth-day the Royal Family paid a visit to the Duchess of Portland, at Bulstrode—for a long and very interesting account of which we must refer to the Letters of Mrs. Delany.

This civil offer was declined; but the King slipped a guinea into his hand, which sum was doubled by the generous warmth of youth on the part of the Prince, and the rustic jogged on with a sufficient portion of wonder to induce him to mention his good luck at the public house, when he learnt that his benefactors were the first two in the nation. To convince him of this was however rather difficult; as he could not understand how the Prince should give him two guineas, whilst the royal bounty was confined to one: but the story got vent, and soon reached the ears of his Majesty, who was highly amused by it. It happened however that in the following week the King met the same man again upon the road, and stopping him said, "Well, my friend, I find you were dissatisfied with the smallness of my present, and thought the son more munificent than the father—but remember that I must be just before I am generous. My son has only himself to think about, whilst I have not only to take care of my own family, but to have regard to the welfare of millions, who look to me for that protection which your own children at home expect and demand from you; go home, and be content."

The autumn was dedicated to military reviews, the first of which took place at Winchester, whither the royal party set off on the 28th of Sep-

tember, from Windsor Castle. During their stay at Winchester, the King and Queen held regular levees, mixing much with the public, and dining in the field on the days of the reviews.

After visiting every thing curious, and being received at the College by a Latin speech from a Mr. Chamberlayne, and an English one from the young Earl of Shaftesbury, they set off for Salisbury, but previously left a very handsome donation for the poor, for the debtors in the prisons, and for other charitable purposes.

A whimsical circumstance happened to Garrick (as stated by Mr. Northcote), who being then at Winchester, and anxious to shew himself in the royal *cortege*, had stationed himself on horseback near to his Majesty. Having occasion to dismount, his horse escaped from his hold, and ran off, when, throwing himself immediately into his professional attitude, he cried out with much humour, as if in Bosworth-field, "A horse! a horse! my kingdom for a horse!" This royal exclamation did not escape the royal ear, whilst it excited great amazement amongst the surrounding spectators, who knew not the quality of the actor; when the King exclaimed, "These must be the tones of Garrick! See if he is not on the ground." The theatrical and dismounted monarch was immediately brought to his Majesty, who not only condoled with him most good-humouredly,

but also most flatteringly added, that his delivery of Shakespeare could never pass undiscovered.

At Salisbury they were received with all clerical honours; they afterwards visited Lord Pembroke's elegant mansion at Wilton, the Duke of Queensberry's at Amesbury, and the venerable mass of Stonehenge, which they examined very attentively, seeming to feel and to enjoy all the interest which such a scene can excite in the breast of the philosophical inquirer.

Soon after their return from the Wiltshire excursion, the King and Queen set off for an examination of the camp at Warley in Essex, fixing their head-quarters at Lord Petre's at Thornden Place. To detail all the particulars of this scene is needless; but the magnificence with which the noble peer received his royal guests, may be inferred from the expenses of three days, which actually amounted to 12,000*l.*

On the 22d of November their Majesties set off for a military excursion in Kent, taking up their abode at Lord Amherst's seat, Montreal, on their way to Coxheath, where the King reviewed the troops encamped, and then proceeded to Leeds Castle, near Maidstone, where he dined and received an address from the corporation of that ancient town.

But the King's attention in these military excur-

sions was not confined to that object solely; for he made it a constant rule to inquire into the state of pauperism in almost every parish through which he passed, both he and the Queen leaving sums of money for relief; and at Maidstone, in particular, he directed a return and statement of all the persons confined for debt in the prisons, in order that such of them as might appear real objects of royal bounty should be enlarged, from his privy purse.

These facts soon became generally known; and the enthusiasm with which the royal pair were every where received was most gratifying. In short, they returned to the Queen's house, followed by the prayers and good wishes of the whole county.

The earnestness with which his Majesty entered into all these military and naval details, was perfectly in unison with, and indeed seemed to arise from, his determination as expressed in the message to Parliament a few months before, when he notified his orders to the British ambassador to quit the court of France; a message which he concluded with assuring them, that relying with the firmest confidence in the zealous and affectionate support of his faithful people, he was determined to be prepared to exert, if it should become necessary, all the force and resources of his kingdoms;

which he trusted would be found adequate to repel every insult and attack, and to maintain and uphold the power and reputation of this country.

Much was said during this period about back-stairs influence; and, though the Princess Dowager was dead, it was loudly asserted, and believed by many, that Lord Bute still guided the King's mind in regard to the line of politics now pursued, so that the ostensible ministers were merely the puppets of a hidden favourite: but a transaction which took place in the month of January this year, in regard to a change of ministry, wherein it was intended to offer place and power to his lordship, proves to a demonstration that these suspicions of private influence were unfounded.

Sir James Wright was a great admirer of Lord Bute, and was supposed generally to be on terms of intimate friendship with him; and being so ill as to require medical aid, was attended by Dr. Addington, the father of the present Lord Sidmouth, equally an admirer of Lord Chatham both as a man and a minister. Dr. Addington conceived that Lord Chatham was the only man qualified to extricate the nation from its existing difficulties, but also felt that the only probable means of bringing him into power must be by forming a coalition between the two ex-ministers. In the course of his visits he took several oppor-

tunities of expressing his sentiments on the subject; and it is positively asserted by a confidential friend of Lord Bute's, that both the physician and his patient regretting that their patrons could not unite for the good of the nation, Dr. Addington actually spoke on the subject to Lord Chatham, who repeated the expressions of the particular value he had for Lord Bute, and his desire to do all in his power to save the nation from the imminent danger in which it was placed.

The worthy doctor took the earliest opportunity of relating this conversation to his patient, who acquainted Lord Bute, and his lordship replied that Lord Chatham would always find him disposed to concur with him in the efforts which he might make to serve the King and the nation; and that if he knew Lord North, he would advise him to prevail on his Majesty to avail himself of the services of Lord Chatham, and to give him a share of his confidence.

Lord Chatham, being informed of this, is said to have understood by the phrase, "concur with him," that Lord Bute still preserved some of his influence with the King; and he was therefore eager to have him informed that it was necessary, without delay, to form a new ministry, for quieting the Americans as well as the British nation; and he talked of nothing less than a total change of administration.

Dr. Addington had also persuaded Lord Chatham to propose to Lord Bute an interview, in order to concert measures; and he was the bearer of this proposal through the channel of Sir James: but Lord Bute, greatly surprised that matters had gone so far, and that the general terms he had made use of in speaking of the disastrous state of affairs, had been so misunderstood, lost no time in dictating to Sir James Wright such a letter as might be shewn to Lord Chatham, the substance of which was, that he had entirely lost sight of public affairs, and that he had for ever given up all thoughts of taking any part in them. He added that several years had passed since he had seen the King; that consequently he could not be of any use to Lord Chatham; and he concluded by declining the proposed interview.

Such is declared to be the true state of an affair of which numerous versions were given—that there was a contradiction between the letter and the message—that Lord Bute accepted the offered assistance to overturn the ministry; but held back on finding that Lord Chatham intended to exclude him from office—in short, a thousand contradictory reports were spread, which we must now leave to oblivion.

It is a most curious fact that in the account drawn up under the sanction of Dr. Addington, it is stated that Sir James Wright actually asserted

that the Lords Bute and Chatham were the two men whom the King hated most!

It is proper to remark also, that Sir James Wright published a counter-statement, in which he denied Dr. Addington's account almost *in toto;* but as this does not relate personally to the King himself, we must refer the curious reader to the "Gentleman's Magazine" for 1778, p. 445 et seq: also id. 516.

The King was personally friendly to the measures taken at this period for the amelioration of the Commerce of Ireland, by the grant of a "Free Trade," as it was called; a grant indeed which was claimed by the Irish in a manner too strong to be resisted in the then circumstances of the empire. Yet such were the strong prejudices existing in England against it, that no minister, under other circumstances than those connected with the state of Ireland, would have ventured to propose such a concession.

Subsequent events have indeed proved the real wisdom of the measure on its own intrinsic merits; independent of the political prudence which thus avoided a breach between the two countries, in which both must have suffered, and Ireland, at least, been totally ruined.

Without entering into the debates of the period, we cannot help recording one whimsical circumstance that occurred in regard to a bill brought

into the House of Commons to permit the importation of sail-cloth from the sister island. On this occasion a most extravagant clamour was excited; petitions poured in from all quarters until the table of the house was covered, stating that it must be ruinous in the extreme to England; yet, strange as it may appear, it was at length found out that such importation was already established by a law of long standing, and the political bugbear vanished in *fumo*.

The Catholic demands about this period began to shew themselves; and to that we must refer the extraordinary circumstance, on the King's birth-day, of a form of prayer for the Sovereign and his family being read in all the Roman Catholic chapels throughout the kingdom.

Sir Joshua Reynolds, having this year published his Seven Discourses as President of the Royal Academy, dedicated them with great propriety to his Majesty, and that in a style so judicious that it was aptly said to be a model to dedicators, and a hint both to writers and painters, that a portrait may be well drawn without being varnished, and highly coloured without being daubed.

In this dedication it was justly observed, that although his predecessors had established marts for manufactures, and colleges for science, yet for the arts of elegance, those arts by which manufac-

tures are improved and science refined, to found an academy was reserved for his Majesty.

Notwithstanding the King's apparent neglect of Reynolds as an artist, yet he never failed in paying him that marked graciousness which the world naturally expected, whenever any personal intercourse took place; as was manifested most particularly at the King's visit to the encampment at Winchester, Sir Joshua at that time being on a visit to Dr. Warton at Winchester College.

In his ardour to encourage every branch of science, his Majesty this year had a most magnificent collection of fossils purchased for him in Italy.

1779.

The Royal Family met with an addition this year, on the 28th of February, in the birth of Prince Octavius; which was followed by the customary addresses, and well-timed declarations of loyalty.

The situation of this country in the year 1779 was certainly very critical. At home much discontent prevailed: the navy was torn by political parties, and the combined fleets were almost triumphant; our armies were wasting in inactivity upon the American Continent; our colonies were captured or menaced by the enemy; commerce was perishing or intercepted; and ministers seemed to have lost the confidence both of Par-

liament and of the people! Yet his Majesty was undaunted and resolute. Many called him obstinate; but he knew that he was struggling for the rights of his people, for the power of parliament, and for the prerogatives of the British Crown. He felt both as a man and a monarch; and, if he was in error respecting the commencement of the war, it was an error in which he had been supported by the opinions of the majority of his subjects at home, but who now changed their opinions in consequence of sinister events: but here let us remark, that the general despondency might thus have sealed the downfall of the empire, had it not been for the unshaken demeanour of the King himself. He shrunk from all negotiation in the moment of national dismay; and boldly resolved to stem the torrent, and resolutely to call forth the strength of the nation, and to fight for honourable, if not for advantageous terms. In doing this, he must have been well aware of the farther shock that would be given to his own popularity; but no private feeling could weigh with him, when put in competition with his people's welfare; and he resolutely fought on in hopes of better times: in despite even of the Spanish war, that nation being then added to our enemies.

At this period the King, always fond of music, was a constant attendant at the oratorios at Drury Lane theatre, where, during this season, "Alex-

ander's Feast" had been repeated every night, much to his Majesty's satisfaction as an admirer of Handel, and then a subject particularly applicable to, and replete with enjoyment to royal feelings. On one of these occasions, whilst the glowing and animating air—

"The Princes applaud with a furious joy,
And the King seized a flambeau with zeal to destroy"—

was performing, his Majesty, as if suddenly struck with the coincidence of some ideas connected with the American war, and with the military aid which he was then expecting from Germany, rolled up his book of the oratorio into a truncheon, starting up at the same time, and flourishing it over his head, whilst he loudly cried out, "Bravo! bravo! encore! encore!" to the great surprise of the audience, before whom it had always been his habit to repress his feelings with a dignified composure. Here, however, the feelings of the man overcame the punctilio of regal etiquette.

Amidst all the bustle of warfare and of political contention, his Majesty was by no means inattentive to the amelioration of many errors in our domestic arrangements, particularly with regard to prisons and the state of public morals, then brought into more public notice by the exertions of the philanthropic HOWARD.

That gentleman was no candidate for court

favours; but the King was not the less sensible of his merit; and, when the act passed for establishing penitentiary houses, on which much labour and thought had been bestowed by men of great ability in 1779, he, with the general approbation of the kingdom, turned his eyes upon Mr. Howard as the first person whose services should be engaged as one of the three supervisors appointed to carry that act into execution.

Howard's modesty and extreme delicacy with regard to any thing like private emolument from public services, a moderate salary being annexed to the office, rendered him unwilling to undertake the appointment; but the King, it is said, interested himself so much upon the subject, that the late Sir William Blackstone was induced, at his Majesty's particular request, to represent to him the propriety of his acceptance of the situation, along with such confidential friends as he himself should nominate. He consented to undertake the duty, his Majesty instantly approving of his choice of Dr. Fothergill, and Mr. Whately, treasurer of the Foundling Hospital. But the death of Fothergill, in 1780, induced Howard to resign, to the great regret of the King, who had, throughout, been the active patron of that very important measure.

A whimsical and well-authenticated anecdote is told of the King this year, something similar to

one which happened to his great predecessor Alfred. Riding one day in the vicinity of Windsor, he was overtaken by a violent storm of rain; and being then separated from his attendants, as returning from a hunt, he made towards a farm-house, or rather a cottage, belonging to a peasant named Stiles, near to Stoke. There he dismounted, and going into the house, found a girl turning a goose, which hung before the fire by a string. His Majesty desired the girl to put his horse under the shed, which she consented to, but at the same time requested him to mind the goose. This he did; and whilst the girl was out, the farmer returned, and felt much astonished to see his Sovereign, whom he knew by sight, thus domestically employed. He, however, had presence of mind to relieve the King without appearing embarrassed, or seeming to recognize him; and on the return of his daughter, he went to rub down the horse, while his Majesty remained in the house awaiting the cessation of the shower, conversing with his usual good-nature on this mode of cookery and the advantages of a jack; soon after which, the weather clearing up, he mounted and rode away. When he was gone, the farmer perceived a paper on the shelf, and having opened it, found in it five guineas, with these words written in pencil, "To buy a jack."

1780.

During the early part of the riots, Lord North was advised by Sir John Macpherson to endeavour to effect a junction, or to open some communication, with the heads of Opposition, for the purpose of stemming the torrent; but his lordship declared that he thought such a measure impracticable.* A temporary coalition did however take

* It is unnecessary to enter into all the particulars of these events, or to notice their causes further than to say they arose from objections to the toleration and relief from penalties then granted to the Roman Catholics.

We certainly cannot agree with modern demands arising out of those grants; but we feel that no real objection ought to be made to what was then given; and we allow all due praise to Sir George Saville, whose last public service in Parliament was his procuring an act in favour of the Roman Catholics of this kingdom, entitled "An Act for relieving his Majesty's subjects professing the Popish religion from certain penalties and disabilities imposed on them by an Act made in the eleventh and twelfth years of the reign of William the Third."

The nature of this last act, which Sir George's humanity has happily obliterated from our statute-books, punished the celebration of the mass with perpetual imprisonment: the keeping a Catholic school was subject to the same punishment; whilst every Roman Catholic was, under the same act, to forfeit his estate to his nearest Protestant relation. Yet such was the bigotry and superstition of a number of misguided people out of doors, called "The Associated Protestants," that they resented this act of humanity by the most daring acts of barbarity and devastation.

place between him and Mr. Fox, a day or two afterwards, the interview being held in the forenoon, behind the scenes of the Opera-house. The result of that conversation is not generally known; but the other members of Opposition, particularly the Marquis of Rockingham, displayed some anxiety to take an active part; and on the 7th of June,

In the scene of riot and confusion which the passing this bill created, it was not to be expected that the mover and framer of it could pass unnoticed. Sir George Saville's house was accordingly one of the first marked out for devastation, which the mob in a great measure effected by breaking several of the windows, and by frequent attempts to set it on fire, which they would have accomplished but for the interference of his numerous friends, who rallied round him in this hour of difficulty and danger.

The coolness of his temper was truly exemplary amidst all this tumult; no unmanly complaints against the ingratitude of the public, no self-condemnation for his original interference in the business. The consciousness of having done his duty was indeed his *murus aheneus*, and with this defence he composed himself with all the philosophy of a Christian, and with all the becoming prudence of self-preservation. The following little circumstance will help to elucidate this last observation.

On that night when the mob was most riotous, a number of Sir George's friends insisted on sitting up with him, for the better protection of his person and family; it was likewise agreed amongst them, that parties should sally out from time to time, to make such reports as circumstances would present. On the giving in of those reports, it was observable that scarcely two accounts agreed, one making the danger less, another greater, and so on; upon which Sir George, with great composure, made the following observation: "Here, gentlemen," says he, "is

when the King in person presided at a privy council, to which all who had a right to sit were summoned, that nobleman is stated to have made his appearance in great agitation, his hair in disorder, and his whole person in complete dishabille. Taking his seat at the council-table, he instantly began to accuse ministers of negligence in

a fine lesson for an historian: we have a fact of the day before us, reported by men of integrity and abilities, anxious to search for truth, and willing to record it with as much circumstance and minuteness as possible; yet such is the nature of the human mind, that with all its inclinations to do right, it is under that operation which in some degree prevents it."

Every body present submitted to the justness of this remark, and, though some of them consisted of men of the first rank for learning and abilities, they seemed to feel the force of this observation in a light which nothing but the recent cause of it could so powerfully impress. Indeed it may be said that Sir George Saville understood the character of his contemporaries with great skill, and at times described them with a briefness and perspicuity which made every body subscribe to their characteristical fidelity.

Of Charles Fox, when he was a young man, he predicted the rising greatness, as well as where the *gît* of his talents rested; he praised him "for his readiness at finding out *blots*, his celerity in hitting the bird's eye of an argument," and his general talents for opposition. Hence he said, others may have more stock, but Fox had more ready money about him than any of his party.

Of Burke he said, he was a man to draw admiration on whatever side he arranged, or almost on whatever topic he discussed.

suffering the first meeting in St. George's Fields to pass unnoticed, which, he contended, gave encouragement to the factious and unprincipled to proceed with their revolutionary plans.

The King listened coolly to this tirade, and also to the debate which divided the council, on the point whether it was or was not lawful for soldiers to fire on actual rioters previous to the reading of the Riot Act; but when, although the opinion seemed to be carried in the affirmative, none of the ministers seemed willing to sign an order for the direction of the military officers, his Majesty desired that the attorney-general, Mr. Wedderburne, should be called in to give his opinion, which he did in the affirmative, adding, in answer to a question from the King, that it was his decided official opinion. His Majesty then with cool firmness directed that an order to that effect should be drawn up for the guidance of Lord Amherst, commander-in-chief, to which he instantly affixed the sign manual; and under that order, that very evening, was resistance first offered to the plundering and devastation of the mob; indeed, it just arrived in time to save the Bank and Lombard-street from plunder; and to the King's firmness alone was the City of London indebted for its preservation from destruction. It was said that Lord Bathurst, president of the council, and Sir Fletcher Norton, speaker of the

House of Commons, who were both present, on being appealed to for their opinions, declared that "a soldier was not less a citizen because he was a soldier; and consequently that he might repel force by force." But no minister would sign the order for the purpose. It has been stated to us as a truth, upon which we can rely, that the very early and decided part which the King took on this remarkable occasion arose out of a conversation with the late Mr. De Luc, a gentleman of whose sensible suggestions the King often availed himself.

Amongst other anecdotes related of his Majesty's personal conduct upon this occasion, it is a fact, that during the two severest nights of the riots, he sat up with several general officers in the Queen's riding-house, from whence messengers were constantly dispatched to observe the motions of the mob. In a short period, between three and four thousand troops were collected in the Queen's Gardens and the Park; but, during the first night, the alarm was so sudden that no straw could be collected for the troops to rest on, and no sooner was this made known to the King, than he went through the ranks, accompanied by one or two officers, telling the poor fellows that his crown could not purchase straw that night, but they might depend that a sufficient quantity should be collected in the morning; in the mean

time his servants should try to make them amends with an allowance of wine, spirits, and beer, to render them as comfortable as possible; adding, that he himself would keep them company until the morning. The anxious Monarch kept his word, either walking amongst the troops, or sitting in the riding-house, which was considered as head quarters, with the exception of short visits to the Queen and family, in order to keep up their spirits. So determined was this benevolent Prince to guard against the effusion of blood, that when he was informed the mob were attempting to get into St. James's Palace and into the Park, he strictly forbade the soldiers to fire, directing them only to keep the crowd off with their bayonets. So well did the troops understand and obey this order, that when the mob became so daring as to take hold of the bayonets and shake them, defying the soldiers to fire or to hurt them, not a drop of blood was spilt; and it is extremely probable that this forbearance tended much to prevent the mob from proceeding to extremities, as, after a few hours' noise and rioting, they drew off to another quarter, without doing any damage, and certainly with an increased loyalty to their merciful Sovereign, even in the hour of riot and confusion.

A circumstance which happened at this period marks most strongly the difference of conduct in

a party man, when acting as a plain Englishman, or as a politician. During the riots, for three nights, Mr. Fox was one of the party that sat up armed, at the Marquis of Rockingham's; nay he even interfered personally and collared one of the rioters, whom he carried prisoner to Grosvenor-square; yet, when the business was under the consideration of parliament, he appeared to take no active part, even when pressed to lend some support to the administration, and to co-operate with them for the extrication of the capital from the danger which threatened it. On account of this, he certainly encountered much obloquy from the opposite party; but, to judge liberally, we may suppose that as long as Mr. Fox considered the means adopted by ministers fully sufficient for security, so long he judged it proper to keep aloof from any personal connexion with them, though he would not have shrunk even from co-operation with his political opponents, had such a temporary coalition been necessary for the good of the country. Had Mr. Fox been in power when these riots, and even more important subsequent events, took place, it may be a question whether he would not have been as constitutional a minister, and as much of a *Pittite* or a *Tory*, as any who ever held the helm of state.

The people of Southwark had the good sense and gratitude to appreciate the King's spirited

interference on this occasion; and presented an address on the 13th of June, thanking him for his seasonable interposition by sending a military force to their relief; but Judge Gould appears to have viewed the affair in a very different light; for when his Majesty sent a message, during the height of the riots, to each of the twelve judges, offering them the protection of the military, that learned gentleman returned for answer, that he had grown old under the protection of the English laws; that he was persuaded, however some persons might be misled, the people in general loved and respected the laws; and so great was his attachment to them, that he would rather die under those, than live under the protection of any other laws.

On the 23d of September, the anniversary of the coronation, the Queen was safely delivered of a prince, at Windsor, who was baptised "Alfred," on the 2nd of November, at St. James's; the two eldest Princes and the Princess Royal performing the part of sponsors to the young Christian.

The royal attention now was much engaged by the first developement of the plan for Sunday-schools; and when Mr. Raikes of Gloucester was shortly afterwards at Windsor, where some of his relatives resided, his arrival was no sooner known than the Queen sent for him to the Lodge, and

expressed a strong desire to know by what accident a plan, which promised so much benefit to the lower orders, was first suggested to his mind. Mr. Raikes instantly proceeded to explain his whole system, and was honoured with an audience an hour long, after which the Queen most graciously observed, that she envied those who had the power of doing good by thus personally promoting the welfare of society, in giving instruction and morality to the general mass of the common people; a pleasure from which, by her station, she was debarred. Let those who, to gratify ignorance or spleen, have often spoke ill of this amiable woman, reflect on this; and let them recollect, that the conduct of a queen, even when thoroughly known in all its bearings, is not to be tried and condemned by the laws which are permitted to regulate village gossip, and to sacrifice the reputations of the good and the virtuous in the humbler though still highly respectable classes of general society. Even if her Majesty had merely thus given her sanction to the benevolent plan, she would have done much: but she did more; and she was throughout life always an active encourager of the various institutions in the vicinity of Windsor, for the amelioration of the lower classes.

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